**Atom** – the smallest particle of matter

**Matter** – anything that has mass and takes up space (heat and sound are NOT matter)

**Proton** – the positively charged particle found in the nucleus of an atom

**Neutron** – the neutral particle found in the nucleus of an atom

**Electron** – the negatively charged particle found in an atom

**Energy Levels (shells)** – the orbits that electrons follow around the nucleus (Electron "Highways")

**Nucleus** – Made up of protons and neutrons; most of mass is found in nucleus.

**Periodic Table** – Organized table of known elements; periodic means having a regular patter.

**Period** – Horizontal rows on periodic table (represent number of energy levels)

**Group/Family** – Vertical columns on periodic table (Elements in a specific group share properties)

**Symbol** – Each element has an element symbol. Example: Carbon's symbol is C.

**Atomic Number** – Represents number of protons (and electrons) in an atom

**Atomic Mass** – Represents number of protons and neutrons combined in an atom

**Metal** – Left of staircase (exception is Hydrogen)

**Metalloid** – Touch staircase (except for Aluminum)

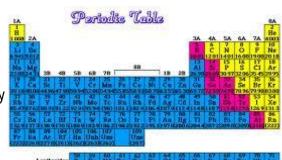
Nonmetal - Right of staircase

**Noble gases** – Inert (stable and nonreactive) gases found in family

**Element** – a pure substance that cannot be separated.

**Valence Electrons –** Electrons in the outermost energy level.

**Properties** – Characteristics that describe a substance.



6 protons + 6 neutrons

neutron

Carbon atom



Mass – Amount of matter (triple beam balance) (gram, kilogram)



Volume – the amount of space an object occupies (I x w x h) (water displacement) (cm3)