



ANTIMONY

A look into a great element

Element Number 51

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Sb

51

121.76

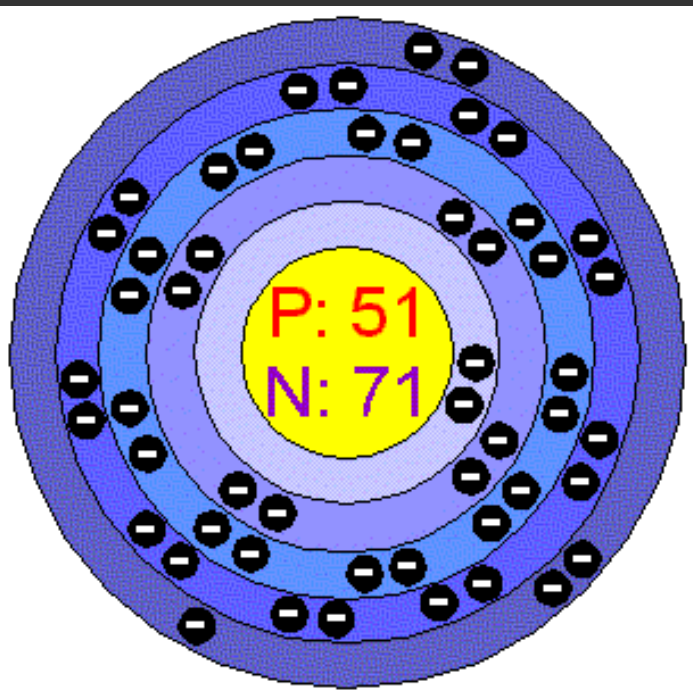


Antimony

Introduction

Take a look to learn more about the wonderful element Antimony. It was one of the first elements discovered and was used all the way back in ancient times. It is still used in things you see every day .

Structure of Antimony



An Antimony Atom

Antimony is an interesting element, just take a look at its structure. It has 51 protons, 71 neutrons, and 51 electrons. There are 5 energy shells and there are 5 valence electrons. Its atomic number is 51.

Antimony is in the 15th group on the periodic table. This is the Nitrogen group. It is a metalloid which is in between metals and non-metals. It is found in nature sometimes but mostly comes from an ore called Stibnite. Antimony gets its symbol of Sb from Stibnite.

Discovery

Antimony's name comes from two Greek words, anti and monos. These words mean "not alone". Antimony is rarely found alone.

The first people to discover Antimony were the ancient Egyptians in 3000 BC, who used it for make up. but the first person to study and write about it was Nicolas L'emery in 1707. He was a French Chemist.



Portrait of Nicolas L'emery



Hazards

If you are exposed to Antimony for a short amount of time you will begin to have irritation to the eyes, skin, and lungs. If you are exposed to it for a long period of time, you could get lung diseases and heart problems.

Compounds and Uses

Antimony can be used in many different ways. When Antimony is mixed with another metallic element it is an alloy which makes things stronger or harder. It is also used in the electronics industry as a semiconductor. Antimony compounds can be used to make fire resistant materials, paint and pottery.

Fun Facts

1. Antimony makes up 0.00002% of the earth's crust.
2. Most of Antimony is mined in China.
3. In the 1930's the Chinese made coins out of Antimony because it was cheap. The coins poisoned people.
4. In the middle ages they swallowed a pill made of antimony as a laxative to help their bowels. They passed the pill down through the family from generation to generation.
5. Antimony led to the death of Mozart.

Conclusion

Antimony is a cool element that everyone should know about. It is used in a variety of items that you use everyday! In its pure form it is a silver gray color that is hard and brittle. It looks a lot like silver ore. It is OK to touch silver, but don't get them mixed up, Antimony is hazardous to your health.

