

Reactivity series
The reactivity series lists metals in order of how vigorously they react. The most reactive metals are at the top.

Potassium	Explode. Products are metal salts and hydrogen.
Sodium	
Lithium	
Calcium	React, making bubbles. Products are metal salts and hydrogen.
Magnesium	
Zinc	
Iron	
Lead	
Copper	
Silver	Do not react
Gold	

Potassium	Burn vigorously. Products are metal oxides.
Sodium	
Lithium	
Calcium	
Magnesium	
Zinc	
Iron	
Lead	Do not burn. Form oxide layer on surface.
Copper	
Silver	Do not react
Gold	

Potassium	React vigorously. Products are metal hydroxide solution and hydrogen.
Sodium	
Lithium	
Calcium	
Magnesium	React with steam. Products are hydrogen and a metal oxide.
Zinc	
Iron	
Lead	
Copper	
Silver	Do not react
Gold	

Displacement	More reactive metals displace less reactive metals from compounds
Extracting metals using carbon	Zinc and metals below it in the reactivity series are extracted by heating their oxides with carbon
Ceramics	Ceramic materials include pottery and brick. They are hard and brittle, with high melting points.
Polymers	Polymers have long molecules. There are hundreds of polymers. Each has unique properties that make it suitable for particular purposes.

Big picture



Chemistry

1.1 Particles and their behaviour

1.2 Elements, atoms and compounds

1.3 Reactions

1.4 Acids and alkalis

2.1 The Periodic Table

2.2 Separation techniques

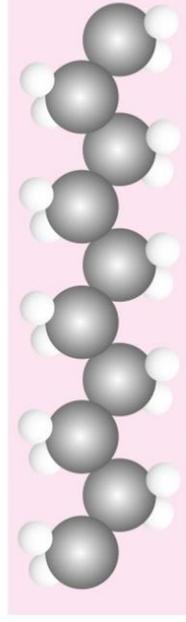
2.3 Metals and acids

2.4 The Earth

Fantastic fact!

The ceramic hafnium carbide has the highest melting point of all known ceramics, at about 3900 °C.

Additional Information



▲ This is part of a molecule of a polymer called poly(ethene). One molecule has hundreds of $-C_2H_4-$ units, joined in a long chain. The black spheres represent carbon atoms. The white spheres represent hydrogen atoms.

Lesson	Developing	Secure	Extending
C2 3.1 Acids and metals	I can describe what happens when metals react with acids. <input type="checkbox"/>	I can compare the reactions of different metals with dilute acids. <input type="checkbox"/>	I can use formula equations to show what happens when metals react in different acids. <input type="checkbox"/>
	I can state that hydrogen gas makes a squeaky pop when lit. <input type="checkbox"/>	I can explain the test for hydrogen gas. <input type="checkbox"/>	I can use word and formula equations to explain the test for hydrogen gas. <input type="checkbox"/>
C2 3.2 Metals and oxygen	I can state the product of the reaction between metals and oxygen. <input type="checkbox"/>	I can compare the reactions of different metals with oxygen. <input type="checkbox"/>	I can explain the reactivity of metals according to how they react with oxygen. <input type="checkbox"/>
	I can identify state symbols from an equation. <input type="checkbox"/>	I can use state symbols in balanced formula equations. <input type="checkbox"/>	I can construct balanced equations that include state symbols. <input type="checkbox"/>
C2 3.3 Metals and water	I can state the products of the reaction between metals and water. <input type="checkbox"/>	I can compare the reactions of metals with water. <input type="checkbox"/>	I can link a metal's reaction with its place in the reactivity series. <input type="checkbox"/>
	I can state whether a metal is more or less reactive than another metal. <input type="checkbox"/>	I can use the reactivity series to predict reactions. <input type="checkbox"/>	I can explain predictions made about a metal's reactivity. <input type="checkbox"/>
C2 3.4 Metal displacement reactions	I can state which metal is more reactive in a pair of named metals. <input type="checkbox"/>	I can predict if a given pair of substances will undergo displacement. <input type="checkbox"/>	I can explain why displacement reactions are predicted to occur or not occur. <input type="checkbox"/>
	I can state where different metals are found in the reactivity series. <input type="checkbox"/>	I can use the reactivity series to explain displacement reactions. <input type="checkbox"/>	I can use particle models and diagrams to represent displacement reactions. <input type="checkbox"/>

Lesson	Developing	Secure	Extending
C2 3.5 Extracting metals	I can state where carbon is found in the reactivity series. <input type="checkbox"/>	I can use the reactivity series to decide which metals can be extracted from their ores by heating with carbon. <input type="checkbox"/>	I can explain why metals can be extracted using carbon, using the idea of displacement. <input type="checkbox"/>
	I can calculate the percentage of waste material in a metal ore. <input type="checkbox"/>	I can calculate the amounts of metals in ores. <input type="checkbox"/>	I can convert amounts of metals within ores from masses to percentages, or vice versa. <input type="checkbox"/>
C2 3.6 Ceramics	I can list the properties of ceramics. <input type="checkbox"/>	I can explain ceramic properties. <input type="checkbox"/>	I can distinguish between chemical and physical properties of ceramics. <input type="checkbox"/>
	I can list some uses of ceramics. <input type="checkbox"/>	I can explain why properties of ceramics make them suitable for their uses. <input type="checkbox"/>	I can justify why possible ceramics are identified from data about material properties. <input type="checkbox"/>
C2 3.7 Polymers	I can state the definition of a polymer. <input type="checkbox"/>	I can describe polymer properties. <input type="checkbox"/>	I can explain properties of different polymers. <input type="checkbox"/>
	I can state some uses of polymers. <input type="checkbox"/>	I can explain how polymer properties make them suitable for their uses. <input type="checkbox"/>	I can compare properties of different polymers. <input type="checkbox"/>
C2 3.8 Composites	I can state some properties of composite materials. <input type="checkbox"/>	I can describe composite properties. <input type="checkbox"/>	I can explain composite properties. <input type="checkbox"/>
	I can state some uses of composite materials. <input type="checkbox"/>	I can explain why composite properties make them suitable for their uses. <input type="checkbox"/>	I can suggest advantages and disadvantages of composite properties. <input type="checkbox"/>

Key word	Definition
carbon fibre	A material made of thin tubes of carbon.
ceramic	A compound such as a metal silicate or oxide that is hard, strong, and has a high melting point.
composite	A mixture of materials with properties that are a combination of those of the materials in it.
displace	A more reactive metal displaces – or pushes out – a less reactive metal from its compound.
displacement reaction	In a displacement reaction, a more reactive metal displaces – or pushes out – a less reactive metal from its compound.
metal	Elements on the left of the stepped line of the Periodic Table. Most elements are metals. They are good conductors of energy and electricity.
natural polymer	Polymers made by plants and animals, including wool, cotton, and rubber.
ore	A rock that you can extract a metal from.
polymer	A substance made up of very long molecules.
reactive	A substance is reactive if it reacts vigorously with substances such as dilute acids and water.
reactivity series	A list of metals in order of how vigorously they react.
state symbol	A state symbol gives the state of a substance in a chemical equation. (s) means solid, (l) means liquid, (g) means gas, and (aq) means dissolved in water.
synthetic polymer	A substance made up of very long molecules that does not occur naturally.
thermite reaction	Reaction of aluminium with iron oxide to make aluminium oxide and iron.