

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Unlocking the Elements: What the Periodic Table Reveals

### Short Answer Key

1. Atomic mass represents the average mass of all the isotopes of an element.
2. Electron configuration helps us understand how electrons are arranged in an atom's orbitals.
3. The periodic table helps scientists predict the properties of elements in the same group because elements in the same group have similar chemical properties due to their electron configurations.
4. (Example answer) Sodium is commonly used in everyday life as table salt (sodium chloride) and in various food preparation processes.
5. A solid has a fixed shape and volume, like ice; a liquid has a fixed volume but takes the shape of its container, like water; a gas has neither a fixed shape nor volume, like oxygen gas.

