

Name _____

Exploring the Marvelous World of Atoms

Short Answer Key

1. The innermost electron shell can hold up to 2 electrons.
2. The mass number of an atom is the sum of its protons and neutrons.
3. An electrically neutral atom has an equal number of protons and electrons. Example: Carbon (6 protons, 6 electrons).
4. When an atom loses electrons, it becomes a cation, with a positive charge.
5. The valence shell is important because it determines how an atom will interact with other atoms in chemical reactions.

