

Name: _____ Section: _____

Symbols and Names That Don't Make Sense

As you have begun exploring your periodic table, perhaps you have experienced something a little confusing. You most likely encountered chemical symbols that appear to have no connection to their elemental names. This is usually due to the symbols representing prior elemental names that are not used anymore. An example of this is "Au" which represents gold. You may ask yourself, "Why is the symbol "Au?" The answer to that question would be that "Au" is a symbol representative of the word "aurum" or yellow in Latin. Many of the symbols have Latin or Greek roots, and it is for this reason that the symbols and names may not make sense to you. For this activity you need to try to come up with some type of mnemonic or "trick" to help you remember the names that the symbols are representative of. An example for gold has been provided.

Symbol	Name	Mnemonic
Au	Gold	A u give me back my gold (Get it "Au")
Na		
K		
W		
Fe		
Ag		
Cu		
Hg		
Pb		
Sn		
Sb		