Organization of the Periodic Table

The periodic table organizes all known elements.

- Elements are listed in order by atomic number
- Metals are on the left (the transition metals range from group 3 to group 12), non-metals are on the right, and the metalloids form a "staircase" in the middle.
- Rows of elements (across) are called periods.
 - All elements in a period have their electrons in the same general area around their nucleus
- Columns of elements are called groups, or families
 - All elements in a family have similar properties, and bond with other elements in similar ways

- Group 1 = alkali metals
 - · Very reactive metals/unstable
- Group 2 = alkaline earth metals
 - · Somewhat reactive metals
- Group 17 = the halogens
 - · Very reactive non-metals/ unstable
- Group 18 = noble gases
 - Gases, Not reactive at all, Very stable because they have a full outer shell of electrons

