

Periodic Table sets and gallium



What do you see and feel with the gallium?

Gallium is a soft, silvery-blue metal that melts at just 30°C – low enough that it can melt in your hands! You might need to warm your hands up a bit by rubbing them together first.

From the Periodic Table set, what can we notice about the elements?

The metals are all shiny solids, though some of them are coloured.

Non-metals are dull and may be coloured. Some metals are much more dense than others; these are lower down on the periodic table.

Did you know?

Gallium alloys are used extensively in semiconductors, including in blue LEDs and violet-coloured lasers. The Galinstan alloy is a mixture of gallium, indium and tin, and is a shiny metallic liquid at room temperature that is used in place of mercury in thermometers.

There are so many amazing elements in each box! They don't look that different, but some of them are very endangered elements. *Tellurium* and *Indium* are essential elements for flat screen TVs and solar panels.

Tantalum is an extremely stable element, and is present in EVERY electronic device. It is found in few places, and two mines in Australia produce more than half of world supply. Illegal mining of coltan (a 'conflict mineral' containing Tantalum) fuelled the Second Congo War ('The Great African War'), the world's bloodiest war since World War II.