

Go fish for formulas!

Chemistry makes much more sense if you know the formulas of substances you will meet in your lessons.

In this game you will practice using the correct name for substances.



This activity accompanies the *Education in Chemistry* article 'Teaching chemical formulas' by Kristy Turner:
rsc.li/2JdULvt



How to play

The aim of the game is to collect the most pairs of formulas before the game stops

1. Deal seven cards to each player. Put the remaining cards face down in a pile in the centre of the table.
2. The players should look at their cards to check for pairs. All players put their pairs face-up in front of them.
3. The youngest player gets to ask first. They ask any other player for a card (so they can make a pair). They **must ask using the full name of the substance**, not the formula. For example: *'Sam, do you have a sodium hydroxide card?'*
4. If Sam has the card then he must give it up. The requesting player then makes a pair and places it in front of them. This player can now ask another (or the same) player for another card.
5. If Sam doesn't have the next card requested then Sam must say **'go fish'**. This player must now draw a card from the pile. If it makes a pair then that is placed on the table. The player's turn ends when they have had to go fish!
6. The players then take turns moving clockwise.
7. The game ends when any player empties their hands of cards. The winner is the player who has the most pairs in front of them at this point.



The cards

There are eight of each of the following cards in the pack

NaOH	Sodium hydroxide	CO ₂	Carbon dioxide
HCl	Hydrochloric acid	N ₂	Nitrogen
HNO ₃	Nitric acid	S	Sulfur
H ₂ SO ₄	Sulfuric acid	O ₂	Oxygen
NH ₃	Ammonia	H ₂	Hydrogen
H ₂ O	Water	Cl ₂	Chlorine