

Go fish! for formulas

Education in Chemistry

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This activity is a variation of the classic card game Go Fish! This game uses chemical formulas cards to help pupils become fluent in associating formulae with the names of substances. This game accompanies the article *Teaching chemical formulas* by Kristy Turner.

Download a powerpoint containing instructions for pupils on how to play the game from rsc.li/2JdULvt.

The most important rule to enforce is that pupils must ask for the name of the substance and not just say the formula. This game works best in small groups of 3-4 pupils.

The formulas included are those that pupils are most likely to come across in their studies in the 11-16 age range. It also includes diatomic elements.

Print and cut up the table to create a pack of cards:

NaOH	NaOH	NaOH	NaOH
NaOH	NaOH	NaOH	NaOH
HCl	HCl	HCl	HCl
HCl	HCl	HCl	HCl
HNO ₃	HNO ₃	HNO ₃	HNO ₃
HNO ₃	HNO ₃	HNO ₃	HNO ₃

H_2SO_4	H_2SO_4	H_2SO_4	H_2SO_4
H_2SO_4	H_2SO_4	H_2SO_4	H_2SO_4
NH_3	NH_3	NH_3	NH_3
NH_3	NH_3	NH_3	NH_3
H_2O	H_2O	H_2O	H_2O
H_2O	H_2O	H_2O	H_2O
CO_2	CO_2	CO_2	CO_2
CO_2	CO_2	CO_2	CO_2
N_2	N_2	N_2	N_2

N_2	N_2	N_2	N_2
S	S	S	S
S	S	S	S
O_2	O_2	O_2	O_2
O_2	O_2	O_2	O_2
H_2	H_2	H_2	H_2
H_2	H_2	H_2	H_2
Cl_2	Cl_2	Cl_2	Cl_2
Cl_2	Cl_2	Cl_2	Cl_2