# Go fish! for formulas

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[rsc.li/2JdULvt](https://rsc.li/2JdULvt)

## 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](https://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 |
| HNO3 | HNO3 | HNO3 | HNO3 |
| HNO3 | HNO3 | HNO3 | HNO3 |
| H2SO4 | H2SO4 | H2SO4 | H2SO4 |
| H2SO4 | H2SO4 | H2SO4 | H2SO4 |
| NH3 | NH3 | NH3 | NH3 |
| NH3 | NH3 | NH3 | NH3 |
| H2O | H2O | H2O | H2O |
| H2O | H2O | H2O | H2O |
| CO2 | CO2 | CO2 | CO2 |
| CO2 | CO2 | CO2 | CO2 |
| N2 | N2 | N2 | N2 |
| N2 | N2 | N2 | N2 |
| S | S | S | S |
| S | S | S | S |
| O2 | O2 | O2 | O2 |
| O2 | O2 | O2 | O2 |
| H2 | H2 | H2 | H2 |
| H2 | H2 | H2 | H2 |
| Cl2 | Cl2 | Cl2 | Cl2 |
| Cl2 | Cl2 | Cl2 | Cl2 |