



Formulas Poker

Purpose:

This activity will help students understand the concepts of balancing charge and naming chemical compounds.

Materials:

Several decks of "formula" cards. I made these out of index cards. You should have enough for each group to have its own deck.

Safety:

Not an issue.

Procedure:

Divide the class into groups of three or four. Give each student a deck of cards and ask each group to establish a scorekeeper.

Each Deck should contain at least one of the following cards:

| | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|---|-------|
| Ba +2 | Be +2 | Cu +2 | Sr+2 |
| Na +1 | Mg +2 | Cu +3 | Sc +3 |
| Ca +2 | Ag +1 | Fe +2 | Al +3 |
| Li +1 | K +1 | H +1 | Hg +2 |
| Pb +2 | V +3 | Fe +3 | Sn +1 |
| Zn +2 | Ni +3 | | Rb +1 |
| NO ₃ -1 | HCO ₃ -1 | CrO ₄ -1 | S -2 |
| NO ₂ -1 | PO ₄ -3 | Cl -1 | O -2 |
| SO ₄ -2 | HPO ₄ -2 | AsO ₄ -2 | F -1 |
| SO ₃ -2 | NH ₄ +1 | C ₂ H ₃ O ₂ -1 | N -3 |
| HSO ₄ -2 | OH -1 | H ₂ PO ₄ -1 | Br -1 |
| CO ₃ -2 | ClO ₄ -1 | I -1 | P -3 |

One Blank or Free Card

15 of each subscript: 1, 2, 3

This game is played as a 5-card draw.

Procedure

This game is played as a 5 card draw. The dealer will pass out 5 cards to each player from the shuffled deck.



Each player may turn in as many as 3 cards but only ONCE. The players will try to make a chemical formula that uses as many of their cards as possible. If they cannot play, they must simply PASS. It is possible to make 2 chemical formulas in one play..

The score is totaled by the number of cards that the player is able to use to make the chemical formula.