

### A model of the Helium atom

● - PROTON - positively charged subatomic particle  
● - NEUTRON - neutral subatomic particle  
● - ELECTRON - negatively charged subatomic particle

<http://www.reachoutmichigan.org/funexperiments/agesubject/lessons/handouts/helium.GIF>

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## Helium

### Basic Information

[http://www.superstem.dl.ac.uk/news/0/files/helium/balloons\\_helium.jpg](http://www.superstem.dl.ac.uk/news/0/files/helium/balloons_helium.jpg)

- The atomic number is 2
- The atomic mass is 4.0026
- The symbol is He
- Helium is a Noble gas
- It is colorless
- It is in period number 1, group number 18
- Its melting point is 0.95 K (-272.2°C or -458.0°F)
- Helium's boiling point is 4.22 K (-268.93°C or -452.07°F)
- It's the second most abundant element in the universe
- Makes up about 0.0005 % of the earth's atmosphere
- Helium is mainly used to fill balloons
- Doesn't combined well with other gases

### History

- Helium was discovered on the sun before it was found on the earth
- Pierre-Jules-César Janssen, a French astronomer, observed a yellow line in the sun's spectrum in 1868 during a solar eclipse
- Sir Norman Lockyer, an English astronomer, realized that this line, with a wavelength of 587.49 nanometers, could not be created by the elements that had been know around that time
- It was named helium by Lockyer, after the greek god of the sun, Helius

### Safety

- Don't inhale helium; it is dangerous and can cause you to loose coconsciousness quickly or even die
- This is because when you inhale the helium it takes oxygen's place in your body
- Your body is deprived from oxygen when you inhale helium

### Citations

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- Winter, Mark. "Helium." [www.webelements.com](http://www.webelements.com). 1 1993-2007. WebElementsTM. 25 Oct. 2007. <<http://www.webelements.com/webelements/elements/text/He/key.html>>.