

The Disappearing Spoon

Chapter 19

1. What is the scarcest, natural element?
2. Which force acts to keep nuclei together?
3. Which element is the least stable?
4. Why is there more francium than there is astatine if francium is so much less stable?
5. What cluster of elements was termed the “island of stability?”
6. What does Kean describe as the “thrilling part” of the new elements?

7. How have scientists named the new hypothetical elements?

8. For what did Einstein win his Nobel Prize?

9. In what way did Glenn Seaborg and his colleagues change the Periodic Table, besides adding elements?

10. What are superatoms?

11. How does a cluster of 13 aluminum atoms act?

12. What is a quantum dot?

13. What can quantum dots be used for?

14. Why does Kean feel reenvisioning and recreating the Periodic Table is important for humans?

15. What does Kean feel might impress aliens about our current form of Periodic Table?