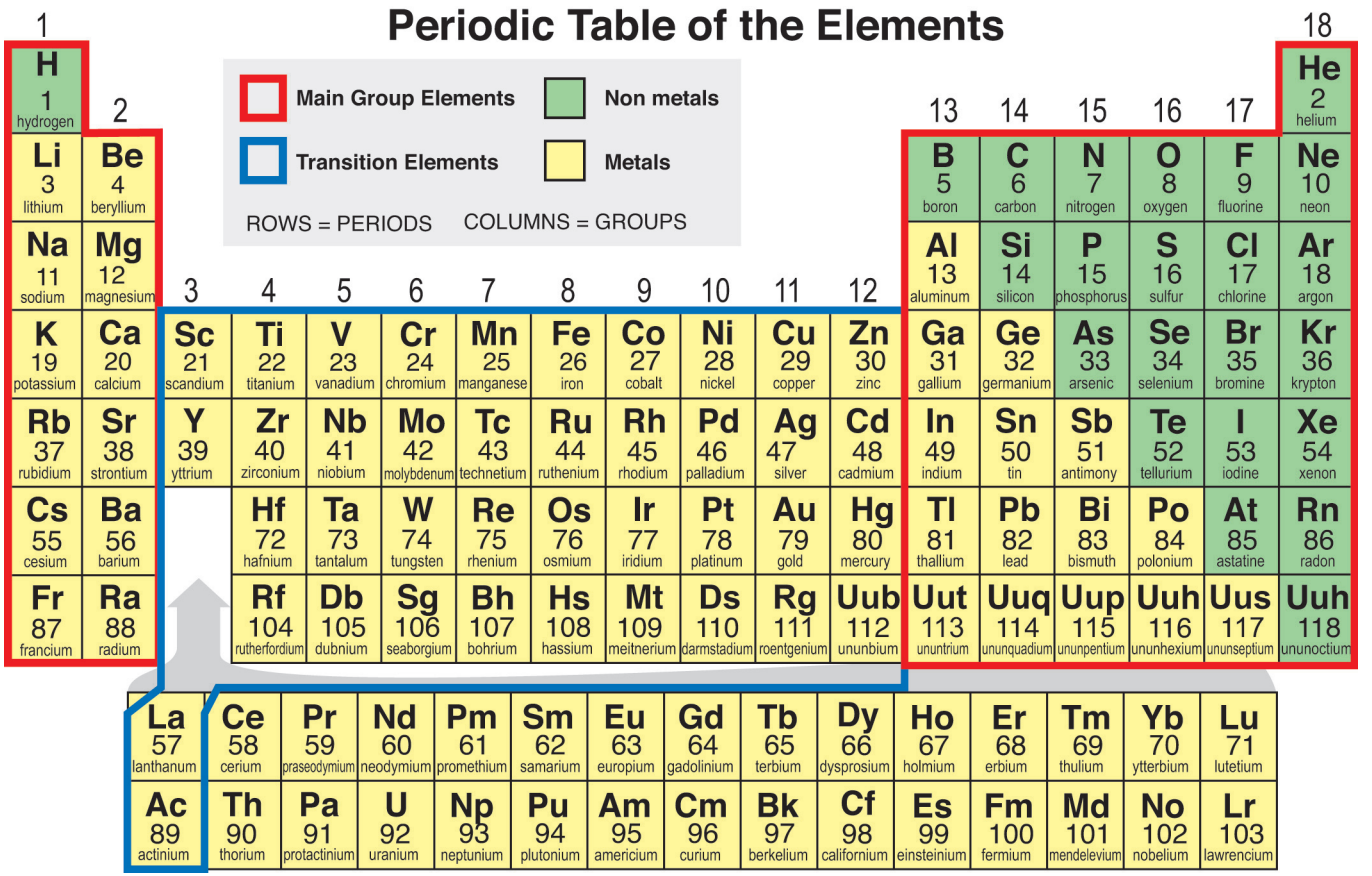
Reading the periodic table

Metals, nonmetals, and metalloids

Most of the elements are metals. A **metal** is typically shiny, opaque, and a good conductor of heat and electricity as a pure element. Metals are also ductile, which means they can be bent into different shapes without breaking. With the exception of hydrogen, the nonmetals are on the right side of the periodic table. **Nonmetals** are poor conductors of heat and electricity. Solid nonmetals are brittle and appear dull. The elements on the border between metals and nonmetals are called *Metalloids*. Silicon is an example of a metalloid element with properties in between those of metals and nonmetals.

VOCABULARY

metal - elements that are typically shiny and good conductors of heat and electricity.

nonmetal - elements that are poor conductors of heat and electricity.