

**CONNECTION TO LANGUAGE ARTS****● Chemical Symbols**

If you examine the portion of the [periodic table](#), you will see that many of the chemical symbols are derived from letters in the elements' names. For example, H stands for hydrogen, He stands for helium, and Mg stands for magnesium. However, not all of the chemical symbols are derived in this fashion. For instance, Au is the chemical symbol for gold, Pb for lead, Na for sodium, and Sb for antimony.

These symbols may seem confusing, but they make sense in a different language. Some elements were discovered long ago, when the language of science was Latin. The symbols for many of these elements reflect their Latin names: Au stands for *aurum*, Pb for *plumbum*, Na for *natrium*, and Sb for *stibium*. Some other chemical symbols are derived from other languages, such as German.

**Your Turn to Think**

1. What is the English name for the element the Romans called cuprum?
2. Which metal was once called ferrum?
3. The symbol for one of the elements is derived from its German name, wolfram. What is the English name for this element?