



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.