

# Relative Mass And The Mole Answer Key

## Relative Mass and the Mole

How can atoms be counted using a balance?

### Why?

Consider the following equation for a chemical reaction:  $2\text{H}_2 + \text{O}_2 \rightarrow 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$

This can be interpreted as two molecules of hydrogen and one molecule of oxygen combining to form two water molecules. But how often do chemists limit their reactions to one or two molecules? Usually a reaction is done with an unimaginable number of molecules. How then do chemists know they have the right mix? The molecules need to be quickly counted! How do we count molecules? The answer is the unit called the **mole**. This activity will start by considering two egg farmers (a chicken farmer and a quail farmer). They produce such large numbers of eggs that they can't count them all individually, so they count in dozens of eggs in some cases, while in other cases they use mass. Weighing is often easier than counting!

### Model 1 – Eggs

Chicken		Quail		Ratio of numbers of eggs	Ratio of masses of eggs
Number of eggs in the sample	Mass of the sample	Number of eggs in the sample	Mass of the sample		
1	37.44 g	1	2.34 g	1 : 1	16 : 1
10	374.40 g	10	23.40g	1 : 1	16 : 1
438	16398.72g	438	1024.92g	1 : 1	16 : 1
1 dozen	449.28g	1 dozen	28.08g	1 : 1	16 : 1
1 million	3744000.00g	1 million	234000.00g	1 : 1	16 : 1

1. Consider the data in Model 1.

a. What is the mass of a standard chicken egg?  
37.44g

b. What is the mass of a standard quail egg?  
2.34g

c. Show mathematically how the 16:1 ratio of masses was calculated in the last column of Model 1.

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Ratio of masses of eggs} &= \text{mass of 1 chicken egg} / \text{mass of 1 quail egg} \\ &= 37.44\text{g} / 2.34\text{g} \\ &= 16 / 1 \\ &= 16 : 1\end{aligned}$$

2. Use a calculator to complete the table in Model 1. Divide the work among group members. Reduce all ratios to the lowest whole numbers possible.

Relative mass and the mole answer key are fundamental concepts in chemistry that serve as the backbone for understanding chemical reactions, stoichiometry, and molecular composition. These concepts allow chemists to quantify the amount of substances involved in reactions and to facilitate calculations concerning mass, volume, and the number of particles. In this article, we will delve into the definitions and significance of relative mass and the mole, explore how to use them in various calculations, and provide examples to solidify your understanding.

## Understanding Relative Mass

Relative mass, often referred to as atomic mass or molecular mass, is a

dimensionless quantity that represents the mass of an atom or molecule relative to the mass of a carbon-12 atom, which is assigned a mass of exactly 12 atomic mass units (amu). The relative mass of an element is important for several reasons, including enabling chemists to predict how much of a substance is needed for a reaction and determining the proportions of elements in compounds.

## 1. Atomic Mass

- Definition: The atomic mass of an element is the weighted average of the masses of its naturally occurring isotopes, taking into account their relative abundances.
- Units: The atomic mass is measured in atomic mass units (amu).
- Example: The atomic mass of carbon is approximately 12.01 amu, reflecting the presence of both carbon-12 and carbon-13 isotopes in nature.

## 2. Molecular Mass

- Definition: Molecular mass is the sum of the atomic masses of all atoms in a molecule. It gives a measure of the mass of a molecule.
- Calculation: To find the molecular mass, add together the atomic masses of each element present in the molecule.
- Example: For water (H<sub>2</sub>O):
  - Hydrogen (H) has an atomic mass of about 1.01 amu.
  - Oxygen (O) has an atomic mass of about 16.00 amu.
  - Molecular mass of H<sub>2</sub>O = (2 × 1.01 amu) + (1 × 16.00 amu) = 2.02 amu + 16.00 amu = 18.02 amu.

## The Concept of the Mole

The mole is a fundamental unit in chemistry that allows chemists to count particles (atoms, molecules, ions, etc.) by weighing them. It provides a bridge between the atomic and macroscopic worlds.

### 1. Definition of a Mole

- Definition: A mole is defined as the amount of substance that contains the same number of entities (atoms, molecules, ions, etc.) as there are in 12 grams of carbon-12. This number is known as Avogadro's number.
- Avogadro's Number:  $(6.022 \times 10^{23})$  entities per mole.

## 2. Importance of the Mole

- Counting Particles: The mole allows for the quantification of large numbers of small entities.
- Stoichiometry: It is crucial for performing stoichiometric calculations in chemical reactions, allowing chemists to predict how much reactant is needed and how much product will be formed.

## Conversions Involving Moles

Understanding how to convert between moles, mass, and the number of particles is essential for practical applications in chemistry.

### 1. Converting Moles to Mass

To convert moles to mass, the following formula is used:

$$\text{Mass (g)} = \text{Number of moles} \times \text{Molar mass (g/mol)}$$

- Example: If you have 2 moles of water ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ), the molar mass of water is 18.02 g/mol.
- Mass =  $(2 \text{ moles}) \times 18.02 \text{ g/mol} = 36.04 \text{ g}$

### 2. Converting Mass to Moles

To convert mass to moles, use this formula:

$$\text{Number of moles} = \frac{\text{Mass (g)}}{\text{Molar mass (g/mol)}}$$

- Example: If you have 36.04 grams of water, you can calculate the number of moles.
- Moles =  $\left(\frac{36.04 \text{ g}}{18.02 \text{ g/mol}}\right) = 2 \text{ moles}$

### 3. Converting Moles to Number of Particles

To convert moles to the number of particles, the formula is:

$$\text{Number of particles} = \text{Number of moles} \times \text{Avogadro's number}$$

$$\text{Number of particles} = \text{Number of moles} \times 6.022 \times 10^{23}$$

- Example: For 2 moles of water:
- $\text{Number of particles} = (2 \text{ moles} \times 6.022 \times 10^{23} \text{ molecules/mole}) = 1.2044 \times 10^{24} \text{ molecules}$

## 4. Converting Number of Particles to Moles

To convert the number of particles to moles:

$$\text{Number of moles} = \frac{\text{Number of particles}}{6.022 \times 10^{23}}$$

- Example: If you have  $(1.2044 \times 10^{24})$  molecules of water:
- $\text{Moles} = \left( \frac{1.2044 \times 10^{24} \text{ molecules}}{6.022 \times 10^{23} \text{ molecules/mole}} \right) = 2 \text{ moles}$

## Applications of Relative Mass and the Mole

The concepts of relative mass and the mole are widely used in various applications in chemistry.

### 1. Stoichiometry in Chemical Reactions

- Understanding the relationship between reactants and products in a chemical reaction.
- Using balanced equations to determine the amounts of substances consumed and produced.

### 2. Concentration Calculations

- Molarity: Moles of solute per liter of solution.
- Used to prepare solutions of specific concentrations for experiments.

### 3. Empirical and Molecular Formulas

- Determining the empirical formula from mass data and converting to

molecular formulas using molar mass.

- Important for characterizing compounds.

## **4. Laboratory Measurements and Reactions**

- Accurate measurements in laboratory settings rely on understanding moles and relative mass.
- Calculating yields, percent composition, and reaction efficiencies.

## **Conclusion**

In summary, relative mass and the mole answer key are indispensable tools in the field of chemistry, providing a framework for understanding the quantitative aspects of chemical compounds and reactions. Mastering these concepts enables chemists to perform calculations necessary for research, laboratory work, and industrial applications. By grasping the principles of atomic and molecular mass, alongside the mole concept, students and professionals alike can approach chemistry with confidence and precision, leading to deeper insights into the material world around us.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is relative mass and how is it different from atomic mass?**

Relative mass, often referred to as relative atomic mass, is a dimensionless quantity that compares the mass of an atom to 1/12 the mass of a carbon-12 atom. It differs from atomic mass, which is measured in atomic mass units (amu) and reflects the actual mass of an atom.

### **How do you calculate the number of moles from relative mass?**

To calculate the number of moles, you can use the formula:  $\text{moles} = \frac{\text{mass (grams)}}{\text{relative molar mass (g/mol)}}$ . The relative molar mass is the sum of the relative atomic masses of the elements in the compound.

### **What is the significance of the mole in chemistry?**

The mole is a fundamental unit in chemistry that allows chemists to count entities (atoms, molecules, ions) in a given substance. One mole contains approximately  $6.022 \times 10^{23}$  entities, known as Avogadro's number, facilitating conversions between mass and number of particles.

## How do you find the relative mass of a compound?

To find the relative mass of a compound, sum the relative atomic masses of all the elements in the compound, multiplied by the number of each type of atom present in the formula. For example, for water ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ), the relative mass is  $2(1.01) + 16.00 = 18.02$ .

## What role does relative mass play in stoichiometry?

Relative mass is crucial in stoichiometry as it allows chemists to convert between the mass of reactants and products in a chemical reaction. By using relative atomic and molar masses, chemists can determine the proportions of substances needed for reactions.

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