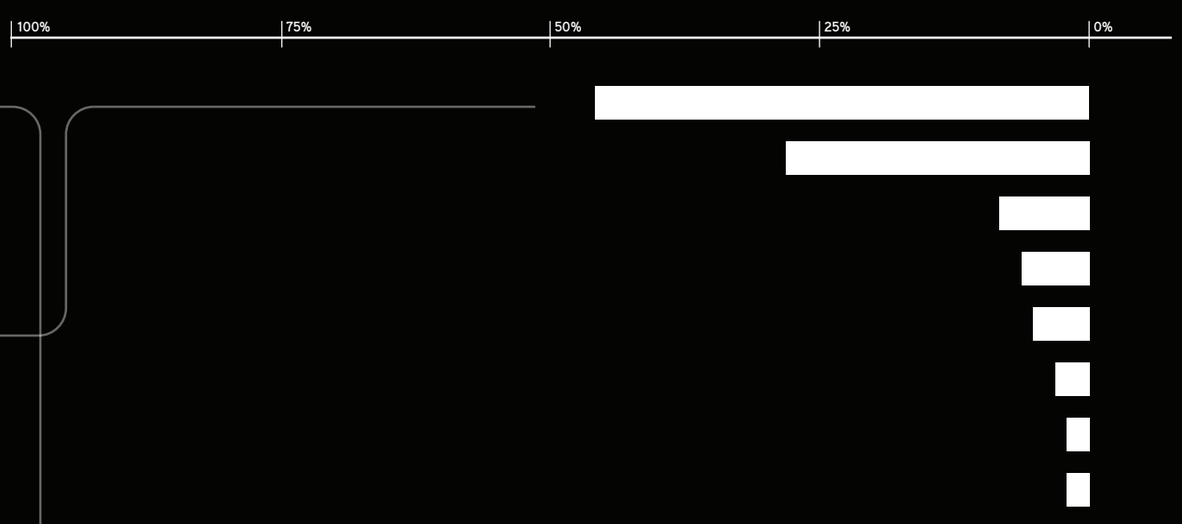
CHEMICAL ABUNDANCES

EARTH'S CRUST



ELEMENTS > 1% — PERCENTAGE OF ABUNDANCE

oxygen	46%
silicon	27%
aluminum	8%
iron	6%
calcium	5%
magnesium	3%
sodium	2%
potassium	2%

ELEMENTS < 1%

titanium	0.66
carbon	0.18
hydrogen	0.15
manganese	0.11
phosphorus	0.099
fluorine	0.054
sulfur	0.042
strontium	0.036
barium	0.034
vanadium	0.019
chlorine	0.017
chromium	0.014
zirconium	0.013
nickel	0.0089
zinc	0.0078
copper	0.0068
rubidium	0.006
cerium	0.006
lanthanum	0.0034
neodymium	0.0033
cobalt	0.003
yttrium	0.0029
scandium	0.0026
nitrogen	0.002
gallium	0.0019
niobium	0.0017
lithium	0.0017
lead	9.9×10^{-4}
praseodymium	8.6×10^{-4}
boron	8.6×10^{-4}
dysprosium	6.2×10^{-4}
thorium	6×10^{-4}
samarium	6×10^{-4}
gadolinium	5.2×10^{-4}
hafnium	3.3×10^{-4}
erbium	3×10^{-4}
bromine	3×10^{-4}
ytterbium	2.8×10^{-4}
tin	2.2×10^{-4}
arsenic	2.1×10^{-4}
cesium	1.9×10^{-4}
beryllium	1.9×10^{-4}
uranium	1.8×10^{-4}
europium	1.8×10^{-4}
tantalum	1.7×10^{-4}
argon	1.5×10^{-4}
germanium	1.4×10^{-4}
holmium	1.2×10^{-4}
tungsten	1.1×10^{-4}
molybdenum	1.1×10^{-4}
terbium	9.3×10^{-5}
lutetium	5.6×10^{-5}
thallium	5.3×10^{-5}
iodine	4.9×10^{-5}
thulium	4.5×10^{-5}
antimony	2×10^{-5}
indium	1.6×10^{-5}
cadmium	1.5×10^{-5}
silver	7.9×10^{-6}
mercury	6.7×10^{-6}
selenium	5×10^{-6}
platinum	3.7×10^{-6}
bismuth	2.5×10^{-6}
palladium	6.3×10^{-7}
helium	5.5×10^{-7}
gold	3.1×10^{-7}
neon	3×10^{-7}
rhenium	2.6×10^{-7}
osmium	1.8×10^{-7}
tellurium	9.9×10^{-8}
ruthenium	9.9×10^{-8}
rhodium	7×10^{-8}
iridium	4×10^{-8}
krypton	1.5×10^{-8}
xenon	2×10^{-9}
radium	9.9×10^{-12}
protactinium	9.9×10^{-13}

ELEMENTS = 0% OR UNKNOWN

technetium	berkelium	hassium
promethium	californium	meitnerium
polonium	einsteinium	darmstadtium
astatine	fermium	roentgenium
radon	mendelevium	copernicium
francium	nobelium	ununtrium
actinium	lawrencium	flerovium
neptunium	rutherfordium	ununpentium
plutonium	dubnium	livermorium
americium	seaborgium	ununseptium
curium	bohrium	ununoctium

LOCATION ON THE PERIODIC TABLE

GOLD PROFILE

79
Au
gold
196.966569

Extremely high mass stars can form heavier elements like gold as they age and when they die in supernovae.

Gold is one of the most coveted of elements and has been prized for centuries. As of 2012, roughly 165,000 metric tons of gold has been mined from the Earth's crust. That's about 5,304,873 troy ounces. It would all fit in a 20-meter cube (about the size of a medium-sized building or 60 semitrailers) and is worth close to $10 trillion.

ALL THE MINED GOLD FITS IN:

x 60

WEIGHS AS MUCH AS:

x 33,000

AND IS WORTH ABOUT:

$10,000,000,000,000

BIG HISTORY PROJECT

IMAGE CREDIT
NASA/NOAA/GSFC/Suomi NPP/VIIRS/Norman Kuring

DATA CREDITS
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