

Key Science Vocabulary ~ #11

- **Atomic mass unit** ~ a unit of mass , μ , where μ is equal to $\frac{1}{12}$ the mass of $^{12}_6\text{C}$
- **Atomic number** ~ the number of protons in an atom's nucleus.
- **Chain Reaction** ~ continual process of repeated fission reactions.
- **Coherent Light** ~ light whose waves are in step.
- **Electron cloud** ~ the region in which there is a high probability of finding an electron.
- **Fusion** ~ the process in which nuclei with small masses combine to form a nucleus with a larger mass and energy is released.
- **Isotope** ~ each of the differing forms of the same atom that have different masses, but the same atomic number.
- **Incoherent light** ~ light whose waves are out of step.
- **Laser** ~ a device that produces coherent light.
- **Neutron** ~ a particle inside the nucleus that has 0 electrical charge.
- **Nucleus** ~ the tiny, massive, positively charged central core of an atom.
- **Proton** ~ a particle inside the nucleus that has a positive electrical charge.
- **Quarks** ~ tiny particles that make up protons and neutrons.