

Key Science Vocabulary ~ #2

Activity ~ the number of decays per second of a radioactive substance.

Alpha particle ~ positively charged atomic particles that move at high speed.

Beta decay ~ the radioactive decay process in which a neutron is changed to a proton within the nucleus.

Electromagnetic radiation ~ energy that is carried in the form of electromagnetic waves.

Gamma decay ~ redistribution of energy within the nucleus, with no change in atomic mass or charge.

Half-life ~ the time required for half the atoms in a given quantity of a radioactive isotope to decay.

Radioactive ~ materials that undergo decay and emit penetrating rays.

Strong nuclear force ~ attractive force that binds the nucleus together.

Weak nuclear force ~ force acting in the nucleus involved in beta decay.

X ray ~ high-frequency electromagnetic wave emitted by rapidly accelerated electrons.