

Key Science Vocabulary ~ #7

- **Atomic mass unit** ~ a unit of mass, μ , where μ is equal to 1/12 the mass of ^{12}C .
- **Atomic number** ~ the number of protons in an atom's nucleus.
- **Binding energy** ~ the energy equivalent of the mass defect.
- **Chain reaction** ~ continual process of repeated fission reactions.
- **Fission** ~ the process in which a nucleus is divided into two or more fragments, and neutrons and energy are released.
- **Fusion** ~ the process in which nuclei with small masses combine to form a nucleus with a larger mass and energy is released.
- **Neutron** ~ a particle inside the nucleus that has 0 electrical charge.
- **Nucleons** ~ protons and neutrons
- **Nucleus** ~ the tiny, massive, positively charged central core of an atom.
- **Proton** ~ a particle inside the nucleus that has a positive electrical charge.