

Council of the 118 Elements

Rainbow Element ~ Iridium

Member of the
Platinum
Group



Name	Iridium		
Atomic No.	77	Atomic Weight	192.217
Origin of the Name	Iris 'Rainbow'	Name of the Greek Goddess of Rainbow	

Melting Point	2446 °C
Boiling Point	4428 °C
Density	22.56 g/cm³
Abundance	0.001 mg/kg
Category	Metal

Electronic Arrangement
2,8,18,32,17

Discovery of the Rainbow Element
Discoverer : Englishman
Smithson Tennant
Year of Discovery: 1803
Tennant found Iridium in the residue left when crude Platinum had been dissolved in aqua regia (a mixture of hydrochloric and nitric acids).
He named Iridium after the Rainbow Goddess Iris because many of the Iridium salts were strongly coloured.

Seating plan of the Council
[The Periodic Table]

Seat of Iridium
Period 6
Transition Metal
Member of the Platinum Group

I am delighted to introduce one of our 118 councilors to you. She was named after the winged Greek Goddess of Rainbow, Iris, because many of her salts are vividly coloured. This unique element is called Iridium.

Iridium is a one of a kind element. She is the most corrosion-resistant element in the Council of the 118 Elements, and the 2nd densest naturally occurring element. She is also one of the rarest elements, even rarer than Platinum or Gold. Also, Iridium has an extremely high melting point. These special traits make Iridium an irreplaceable element in the Council.

She is one of the members of the Platinum Group. The Platinum Group consists of 6 noble, precious metals, namely Ruthenium, Rhodium, Palladium, Osmium, Iridium, and of course, Platinum herself.

Last but not least, Iridium contributes a great deal to the human world. She is used at the tip of spark plugs because only Iridium can survive the harsh mechanical and thermal shock experienced in the electric contact of spark plugs that ignite fuel in combustion engines.

The NIST international prototype metre and kilogram mass standard is made of hard-wearing Iridium and Platinum to prevent any change from occurring.

