

Notes – Periodic Table Video

Groups 1-2 and 13-18 are called the representative elements.

Groups 3-12 are called the transition elements (or transition metals). The elements at the bottom of the periodic table (part of group 3, periods 6 and 7) are called the inner transition elements, or rare earth metals.

Group 1 is called the alkali metals.

Group 2 is called the alkaline earth metals.

Group 17 is called the halogens.

Group 18 is called the noble gases.

For the representative elements, the one's digit of the group number is the number of electrons in the outer shell – the valence electrons. (Exception: Helium only has two electrons, even though it is in group 18.)