

# Einsteinium Encyclopedia Article

## Einsteinium

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# Einsteinium

Einsteinium is a transuranium element, located in Row 7 of the **periodic table**. The elements that make up this family are also known as the actinides, after the first member of the family. Einsteinium's **atomic number** is 99, its atomic **mass** is 252.0828, and its chemical symbol is Es.

## Properties

All isotopes of einsteinium are radioactive, the most stable being einsteinium-252 with a half life of 20.47 days. Too little of the element has been prepared thus far for scientists to have made determinations of its properties.

## Occurrence and Extraction

Einsteinium does not occur naturally in the Earth's crust. Instead, it is prepared in particle accelerators by bombarding isotopes of heavy transuranium elements with alpha particles.

## Discovery and Naming

Einsteinium was discovered in November 1952 at Eniwetok Atoll, Marshall Islands, in the Pacific Ocean as a byproduct of the first **hydrogen** bomb test. The element was produced in trace amounts during the explosion of that bomb. The research team that discovered the element was led by **Albert Ghiorso**, who has also been involved in the discovery of many other transuranium elements. The team chose to name the new element after the German-American physicist **Albert Einstein** (1879-1955), sometimes regarded as the greatest scientist who has ever lived.

## Uses

Einsteinium is sometimes used for research purposes, but it has no practical applications.