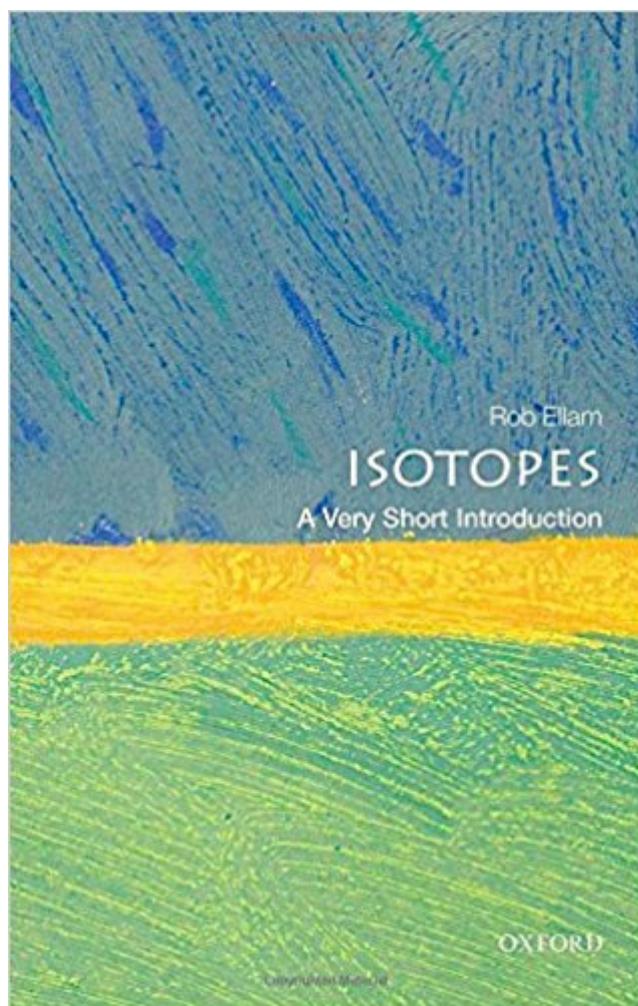


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Isotopes: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions)



Synopsis

An isotope is a variant form of a chemical element, containing a different number of neutrons in its nucleus. Most elements exist as several isotopes. Many are stable while others are radioactive, and some may only exist fleetingly before decaying into other elements. In this Very Short Introduction, Rob Ellam explains how isotopes have proved enormously important across all the sciences and in archaeology. Radioactive isotopes may be familiar from their use in nuclear weapons, nuclear power, and in medicine, as well as in carbon dating. They have been central to establishing the age of the Earth and the origins of the solar system. Combining previous and new research, Ellam provides an overview of the nature of stable and radioactive isotopes, and considers their wide range of modern applications.

ABOUT THE SERIES: The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area. These pocket-sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly. Our expert authors combine facts, analysis, perspective, new ideas, and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable.

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Customer Reviews

Rob Ellam is Professor of Geochemistry at the University of Glasgow and Director of the interdisciplinary Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and was Distinguished Lecturer for the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain

and Ireland in 2012-13. He has worked on isotopes across a range of fields, publishing papers on earth science, analytical chemistry, environmental chemistry, and archaeology.

Understanding of isotopes has enhanced our world in many ways and the good doctor points them out in ways that will increase one's understanding of the world. From dating materials by what isotopes remain after moments or eons, to medical imaging and treatment, the professor brings the subject to life with things you will love to learn. I am interested in how elements are created and this book has added to my understanding and appreciation. Well written from start to finish.

The fact that I find this interesting is almost moot. I purchased the book because I've long been interested in isotopes. But this little book has grabbed my attention and reminded me vividly of why I find isotopes fascinating. If you think you'll like this book, I bet you will. Be certain you know what isotopes are, first. Then, go for it.

Most beginners have problems when they try to get familiar with isotopes and their jargon. This book helps them to overcome this difficulty in a clear and concise way

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