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# What are Quasicrystals?

Quasicrystals are a new phenomena recently accepted into the scientific community after some rejection. Quasicrystals were investigated & observed in the 1960's, but, systematically observed in the 1980s by Dan Shechtman, who won the Nobel prize for their discovery.

They were previously disregarded in favor of prevailing views about the atomic structure of matter (with only 2, 3, 4, 6-fold symmetries allowed). Quasicrystals are an ordered assembly of atoms resembling a crystal with unusual symmetries including 5, 8 and 12-fold found in aluminum alloys & certain polymers (synthetic plastics & resins) but without consistent periodicity. They relate to the famous Penrose tiles and Islamic tile design. The Golden ratio is also found in many of their dimensions as Golden rhombi.

PowerPoint Interaction Questions – Quasicrystals
<u>Directions</u> : Using NatureGlo's eScience PowerPoint, <i>Quasicrystals, Unusual Mosaic of Atoms</i> , answer the questions below.
<u>Slide #3 What is a Quasiperiodic Crystal, or Quasicrystal?</u>
<ol> <li>True or False. Quasicrystals have unusual atomic crystal arrangements including 5, 8 and 12-fold symmetries found in aluminum alloys &amp; certain polymers (synthetic plastics &amp; resins).</li> </ol>
<u>Slide #3</u>
2. Multiple choice. Symmetries quasicrystals include are
a. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 b. 2, 3, 4, 6 c. 5, 8, 10, 12
Slide #5 Usual Symmetry Types found in Crystallography
<ol> <li>The usual types found in crystallography include 2-fold as found in equilateral triangles, 4-fold in squares and 6-fold in regular hexagons.</li> </ol>

## PowerPoint Interaction Questions – Quasicrystals

#### Slide #8 Quasicrystal's Discovery

4. Fill in the blank. Dan Schectman made electron microscopic observations of quasicrystals and won the \_\_\_\_\_\_ in chemistry for his discoveries and work.

Slide #8 The Two Known Quasicrystal Types

5. Multiple choice. The two quasicrystal types are \_\_\_\_\_.

a. Polygonal and icosahedral b. triangular and square

c. Spherical and tabular

#### Slide #13 Penrose Tiles

6. True or False. A geometric relationship used in approximately modeling quasicrystals, although their original creation wasn't to describe them are Penrose tiles. \_\_\_\_\_

#### Slide #13

7. Short answer. \_\_\_\_\_ are small nonidentical shapes arranged to fill a space completely.

<b>PowerPoint Interaction Questions –</b>
Quasicrystals

Slide #13 Penrose Tiles

8. True or False. Penrose tiles give us a geometric representation of quasicrystal molecules and atoms and are not made up of Phi. \_\_\_\_\_

Slide #14 Peter Lu's Girih Tiles with Observations of Islamic Tile Design

9. Strong evidence reveals that \_\_\_\_\_\_ mathematicians and artists discovered quasicrystalline properties of "Penrose tilings" hundreds of years before Kepler.

a. Israeli b. European C. Islamic

Slide #23 Quasicrystal Uses

10. \_\_\_\_\_ use includes razor blades, surgical tools and as a frying pan alloy coating.

# Quasicrystals Journal Entry Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Fill in the information below.

Sketch	1). General Description
	2). Size
	3). Color
	4). Patterns
	5). Related numbers and geometric
	shapes

### Mathematician/MathArtist Journal Entry

Your Name:

Today's Date:

Mathematician/MathArtist:

Directions: Select a mathematician or a "MathArtist" (one who used or uses mathematics in their artwork). Follow the guidelines below.

### Sketch and or Photos

1). Life Work
•
•
2). Related numbers and geometric
snapes
•
•
3). Other mathematical relationships

# Quasicrystal Web Resources

Learn more by visiting Natureglo's eScience Virtual Library at the links below.

Quasicrystals:

http://hascmathart.weebly.com/ quasicrystals.html

# **Project and Activity Ideas**

Students can do a research project using the resources from the headings, Web Resources, Projects and Activities, Live & HYBRID course Videos and Informative Videos listed on the resource page. A scoring rubric is on the following page for parents who choose to grade any student research project(s) work.

Nati	ureglo's eS Usage: PowerPoin	cience Stud ts, posters & other v	ent Projec written research	ct Rubric: projects	
Category	Criteria				Points
	4 Exemplary	3 Accomplished	2 Developing	1 Beginner	
Accurate Research/ Inform-	All taken from several sources &	Most taken from sources & cited	Some taken from sources and	Little or none taken from sources and	
ation Gathering & Citation	cited in work		cited	or not cited	
Content	Great number of interesting facts around topic	Many interesting or too many facts	Some important facts	Few or no facts	
Graphics/ Sound/ Animation	High quality; enhance understandin g on every page. All borrowed graphics with source cited.	Many enhance understanding on most pages; most borrowed graphics cited.	Some enhance understandi ng; some cited	Zero, unrelated, very few or poor quality graphics and/or none cited	
Organiz- ation & Attractive- ness	Well organized and very attractive; demonstrates creative & logical sequencing and sentence structure	Mostly well organized and attractive; demonstrates logical sequencing and sentence structure	Somewhat organized and attractive, but some illogical sequencing and sentence structure	Unattractive and or weakly organized or disorganized	
Grammar and Mechanics Divide total	All correct	1 - 5 errors	5 – 10 errors Total Points	Frequent errors /Grade:	

# The Quasicrystals Quiz



## Quasicrystals - Quiz

#### Slide #8 Quasicrystal's Discovery

4. Fill in the blank. Dan Schectman made electron microscopic observations of quasicrystals and won the \_\_\_\_\_\_ in chemistry for his discoveries and work.

Slide #8 The Two Known Quasicrystal Types

5. Multiple choice. The two quasicrystal types are \_\_\_\_\_.

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#### Slide #13 Penrose Tiles

6. True or False. A geometric relationship used in approximately modeling quasicrystals, although their original creation wasn't to describe them are Penrose tiles.

#### Slide #13

7. Short answer. \_\_\_\_\_\_ are small nonidentical shapes arranged to fill a space completely.

Slic	le #13 Penrose Tiles
8.	True or False. Penrose tiles give us a geometric representation of quasicrystal molecules and atoms and are not made up of Phi
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9.	Strong evidence reveals that mathematicians and artists discovered quasicrystalline properties of "Penrose tilings" hundreds of years before Kepler.
	a. Israeli b. European C. Islamic
Slid	e #23 Quasicrystal Uses
10.	use includes razor blades, surgical tools and as a frying pan alloy coating.

# Answer Key

### PowerPoint Interaction Questions & Quiz Answer Key - Quasicrystals

<u>Directions</u>: Using NatureGlo's eScience PowerPoint, *Quasicrystals, Unusual Mosaic of Atoms*, answer the questions below.

<u>Slide #3 What is a Quasiperiodic Crystal, or Quasicrystal?</u>

1. True or False. Quasicrystals have unusual atomic crystal arrangements including 5, 8 and 12-fold symmetries found in aluminum alloys & certain polymers (synthetic plastics & resins). True

#### <u>Slide #3</u>

2. Multiple choice. Symmetries quasicrystals include are c.

a. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 b. 2, 3, 4, 6 c. 5, 8, 10, 12

#### Slide #5 Usual Symmetry Types found in Crystallography

3. The usual **symmetry** types found in crystallography include 2-fold as found in equilateral triangles, 4-fold in squares and 6-fold in regular hexagons.

## PowerPoint Interaction Questions – Quasicrystals

#### Slide #8 Quasicrystal's Discovery

4. Fill in the blank. Dan Schectman made electron microscopic observations of quasicrystals and won the **Nobel Peace Prize** in chemistry for his discoveries and work.

#### Slide #8 The Two Known Quasicrystal Types

- 5. Multiple choice. The two quasicrystal types are a.
  - a. Polygonal and icosahedral b. triangular and square
  - c. Spherical and tabular

#### Slide #13 Penrose Tiles

6. True or False. A geometric relationship used in approximately modeling quasicrystals, although their original creation wasn't to describe them are Penrose tiles. **True** 

#### <u>Slide #13</u>

7. Short answer. Penrose Tiles are small non-identical shapes arranged to fill a space completely.

## PowerPoint Interaction Questions – Quasicrystals

#### <u>Slide #13 Penrose Tiles</u>

8. True or False. Penrose tiles give us a geometric representation of quasicrystal molecules and atoms and are not made up of Phi. False

<u>Slide #14 Peter Lu's Girih Tiles with Observations of Islamic</u> <u>Tile Design</u>

9. Strong evidence reveals that Islamic mathematicians and artists discovered quasicrystalline properties of "Penrose tilings" hundreds of years before Kepler.

a. Israeli b. European C. Islamic

Slide #23 Quasicrystal Uses

**10. Quasicrystal** uses includes razor blades, surgical tools and as a frying pan alloy coating.