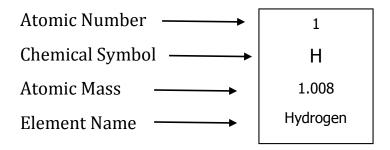
Elements & Compounds

An *element* is a pure substance that cannot be broken down into a simpler substance and still maintain its chemical identity.

A *compound* is composed of two or more elements.



The Earth is divided into four component parts:

• Lithosphere: solid, outer surface of the Earth

• Biosphere: all of the living matter on Earth

• Hydrosphere: Earth's oceans

• Atmosphere: air surrounding the Earth