

IIA *The Alkaline Earths*

In order of increasing atomic number the members of group IIA of the periodic table are:

beryllium,
magnesium,
calcium,
strontium,
barium and
radium.

The members of the group display rather striking similarities of behaviour, including stable oxides and carbonates, with hydroxides that are less alkaline than those of group IA. The elements of the group are characterized by a valence of two, having two electrons in an outer shell available for reaction. Because of their chemical similarities, these elements are considered the fifth group in classical qualitative chemical analysis separations.