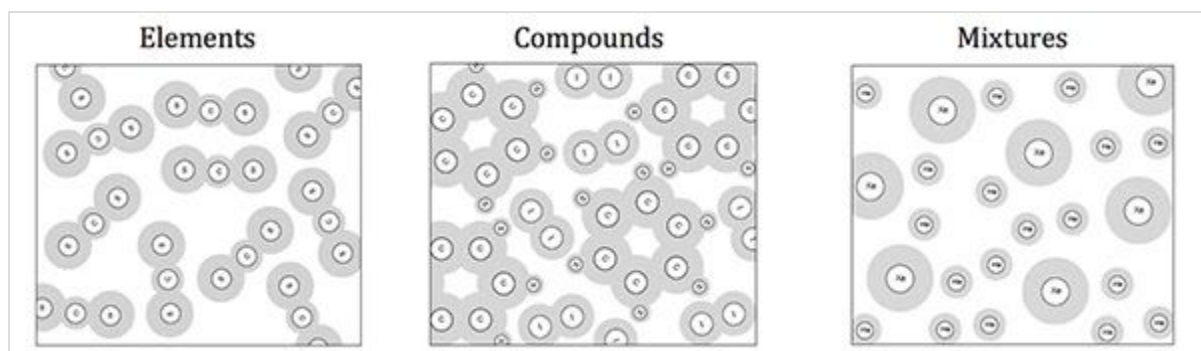


Card Sort Activity - A set of symbol cards were used for this activity. Students were asked to sort the cards into three groups and explain their rationale. Children grouped them differently according to their understanding. At the first level, some groups categorized them as atoms, molecules, and mixtures. It was interesting to note that students had perceived the different shapes as atoms. However, they had confusions with regard to mixtures and compounds. About half of the students considered any diagram that contained different symbols as atoms, whatever their placement, as a representation of a mixture.



After one round of sorting, it was explained that each shape represents a different kind of atom. Two three different atoms joined together could represent a compound. Based on this understanding, they were asked to regroup the cards. This time most children were able to group them into elements, compounds and mixtures. Another version of the card game with the symbols of elements is being shown here.