

1. What two symbols are missing from this group?



2. This symbol is the medieval symbol for sulfur: an element that smells horribly when lit on fire (it smells like rotten eggs). The triangle on top symbolized fire. Why did medieval alchemists add the arrow below to create a symbol for sulfur?



3. According to an eighteenth century encyclopedia, this symbol meant "month". Explain how this symbol represents a month.



4. Below is the symbol for an alloy (compound) of mercury and silver.



If gold were represented by a large "O" and copper by a small "O", how might an alloy of gold and copper be represented?

5. This old and common ideogram means "flowing water", "river", or "stream". Interestingly, the symbol also means "advanced intellect." What relationship exists between these two seemingly different concepts?



Answers

- 1.
2. The arrow pointing downward referred to Hell, where damned souls burned in foul-smelling sulfur.
3. The Roman numeral "X" meant "10". A month consists of approximately 30 days—three "10s".
4. One "O" inside the other with four horizontal lines through them.
- 5.