

Close Listen – Turning Girl Scout Cookies into Graphene

You are going to be listening to a short broadcast from NPR (National Public Radio) about a substance called graphene.

Pre-listening Activity

1. Using a computer or phone, pull up an image of graphene
2. Sketch a small section of graphene on your paper, including at least four rings.

Listening Prompts

You are welcome to stop the audio at any point during the broadcast, and to replay sections as needed. Since you may not have time to write complete sentences as you listen, I suggest you jot down quick notes as the broadcast is played. When the broadcast is complete, you will write complete answers. As you listen to the recording, you are listening in general, but also specifically for:

1. The value of graphene compared to the value of gold
2. The method for converting carbon-containing substances to graphene
3. Examples of substances that have been converted to graphene

URL for the broadcast: <http://www.npr.org/2013/01/25/170267857/turning-girl-scout-cookies-into-graphene>

Post-listening Questions

After listening to the selection from NPR, answer the following questions on your paper. You are encouraged to discuss these with classmates, but you must write your own answers.

1. What are some substances that YOU would like to try converting to graphene?
2. Research potential uses of graphene. Create a list of at least five of these potential uses.
3. What makes graphene so valuable?
4. Predict whether the price of graphene will increase or decrease over the next ten years. Justify your answer.