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| **Activity** | The rate at which nuclear radiation is given out. |
| **Alpha** | A type of ionising radiation which is a helium nuclei. |
| **Background Radiation** | Low-level radiation that is around us all the time. |
| **Beta** | A type of ionising radiation which is a high speed electron. |
| **Chain Reaction** | When one reaction causes another to happen - so that more and more reactions occur. |
| **Contamination** | Having a radioactive material inside the body or on skin or clothing. |
| **Control Rod** | Rods made of a material that absorbs neutrons and so they control the rate of fission. |
| **Coolant** | The liquid that transfers heat from one place to another. |
| **Fission** | The splitting of a nucleus with the release of energy. |
| **Fuel Rod** | A container that lets fuel be put into the reactor. |
| **Fusion** | The joining together of two smaller nuclei with a release of energy. |
| **Gamma** | The most penetrating ionising radiation. It is a high energy electromagnetic wave. |
| **Half-Life** | The time taken for half of a radioactive element in a sample to decay. |
| **High-Level Waste** | Highly radioactive and hot nuclear waste. From nuclear reactors and weapons. |
| **Intermediate Waste** | Short-lived nuclear waste that requires some shielding. |
| **Ionising Radiation** | Radiation that can remove electrons from their atoms. |
| **Irradiation** | Being exposed to an external radioactive source. |
| **Isotopes** | Atoms of the same element with different numbers of neutrons. |
| **Low-Level Waste** | Objects that have a small amount of short-lived radioactivity. |
| **Neutron** | Neutral particle found in the nucleus. |
| **Nucleus** | Central part of the atom containing protons and neutrons. |
| **Proton** | Positive particle found in the nucleus. |
| **Proton Number** | The number of protons found in the nucleus of an atom. |
| **Radiation Dose** | A measurement in millisieverts of the all the radiation your body receives. |
| **Radioactive** | A material that produces nuclear radiation. |
| **Radioactive Decay** | The way in which a material gives out nuclear radiation over a period of time. |
| **Radiotherapy** | Using radiation to treat a patient. |
| **Sterilisation** | Using ionising radiation to kill bacteria. |
| **Strong Nuclear Force** | The force that holds protons and neutrons together. |
| **Unstable** | The nucleus of an isotope is not stable and so will give out nuclear radiation. |