

Bozeman Video – Radiocarbon Dating

1. Fill in the following table regarding Carbon and its isotopes:

	Number of protons	Number of neutrons	% of carbon that is found in the atmosphere	Stable form? (Y/N ?)
Carbon-12				
Carbon-13				
Carbon-14				

2. Why do we say that Carbon-12 and 13 are “stable”?
3. How is Carbon-14 formed?
4. Describe how Carbon-14 gets into your DNA and other molecules that make up you.
5. Write down the reaction for Carbon-14 decay.
6. How old is a fossil if it has approximately 25% of the original volume of Carbon-14 remaining in it?
7. Why is Carbon-14 dating unreliable for fossils or objects formed after 1950?