# Atoms and Elements: Historical Ideas About the Nature of Matter

#### **OUTCOME QUESTION**

S1-2-01:

How did each person contribute to the understanding of matter?

Do you know the difference between a philosopher and a scientist?

P-try to explain, and try
to experiments

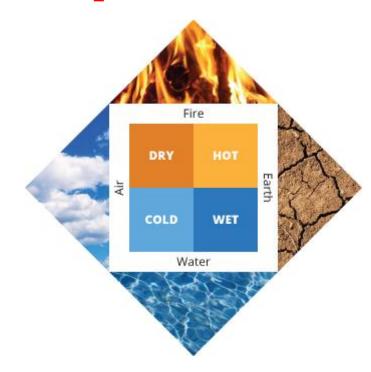
#### Early Philosophers (not Scientists)

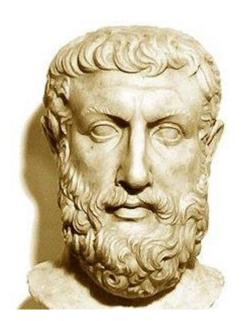
#### 1. Empedocles (450 BCE)

#### Hypothesis:

#### Matter is composed of 4 main elements:

- -Earth
- -Water
- <u>-Air</u>
- -Fire





#### Early Philosophers (not Scientists)

#### 2. Democritus (400 BCE)

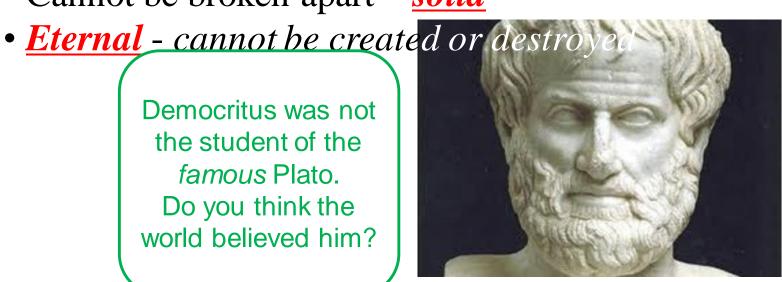
#### Hypothesis:

"atomos" - means indivisible

Matter is composed of <u>tiny particles</u> in constant motion – <u>atomos</u>

Cannot be broken apart – <u>solid</u>

Democritus was not the student of the famous Plato. Do you think the world believed him?



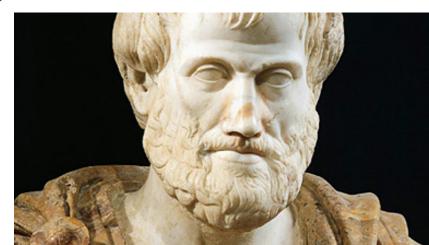
#### Early Philosophers (not Scientists)

#### 3. Aristotle (350 BCE)

#### Hypothesis:

- Rejected Democritus' idea of atoms, and adopted
   the "4 element" model
- •This influenced and dominated the scientific world for almost <u>2000</u> years!

Aristotle was the student of the famous Plato.
Do you think the world believed him?



- **4. The Alchemists** (500 1600 CE)
- First recorded use of the "scientific method"

(observation, experimentation, measurement and classification)

Alchemists are consider the first "scientists"

#### **Beliefs**

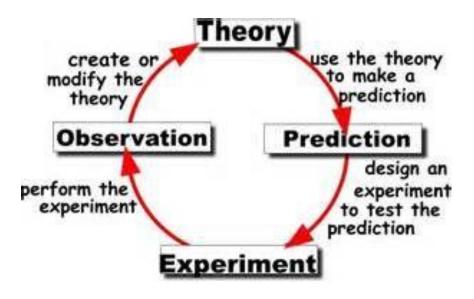
- 1. Elements could be **changed** into others
- 2. Wanted to find the solution to eternal the
- 3. Wanted to produce a universal solveni

Alchemists believed the "key" to both goals was the same and called it the *Philosopher's Stone* 

#### **Early Scientists**

#### 1. Sir Francis Bacon (1600s)

• First scientist to develop new knowledge because of experimentation





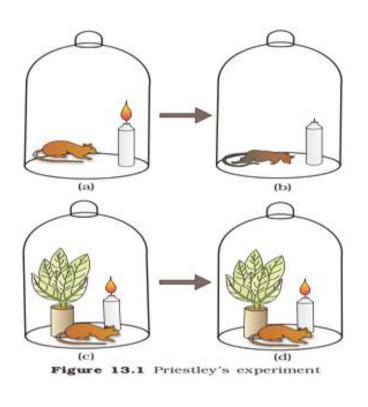
#### **2. Robert Boyle** (1650)

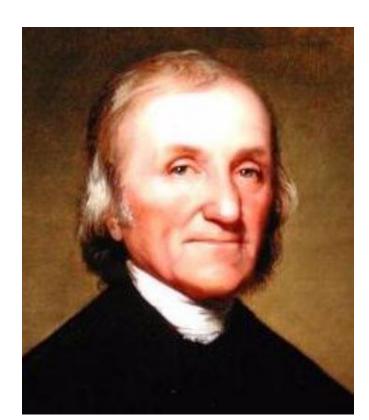
- Wanted to improve the "4 Element Theory"
- Published Skeptical Chemist and defined the term "element"
- Element = <u>certain simple unmingled body</u>
- Found elements combined to form compounds



#### 3. Joseph Priestly (1700s)

- Isolated <u>oxygen</u>
- Did not realize that oxygen was an element!



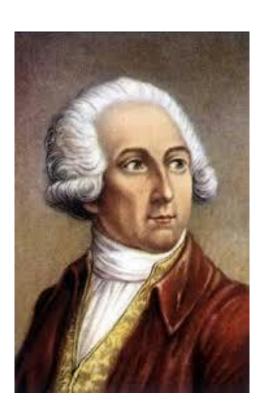


#### 4. Antoine de Lavoisier (late 1700s)

- Defined an element as <u>a pure substance</u>
- Discovered and identified 23 elements
- Recognized mixtures exist

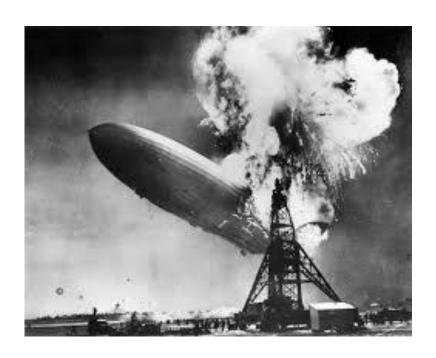
#### TABLE OF SIMPLE SUBSTANCES.

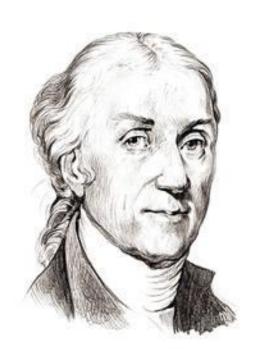
Simple fubstances belonging to all the kingdoms of nature, which may be confidered as the elements of bodies. Correspondent old Names. New Names. Light Light. Heat. Principle or element of heat. Caloric Fire. Igneous fluid. Matter of fire and of heat. Dephlogisticated air. Empyreal air. Oxygen Vital air, or Base of vital air. Phlogisticated air or gas. Azote Mephitis, or its base. Inflammable air or gas, Hydrogen or the base of inflammable air. Oxydable and Acidifiable fimple Substances not Metallic. New Names. Correspondent old names. Sulphur The fame names. Phosphorus Charcoat Muriatic radical Still unknown. Fluoric radical Boracic radical



#### **5. Henry Cavendish** (late 1700s)

- Mixed metal with acid and produced <u>hydrogen</u>
- Found it would burn in oxygen to produce <u>water</u>
  - proved water was a mixture!





# Atoms and Elements Models of Matter

History

#### **OUTCOME QUESTION(S):**

**S1-2-01**:

How did each person contribute to the understanding of matter?

S1-2-02:

What is the basic subatomic structure of an atom?

Who have we already talked about?

### **1. John Dalton** (1800)

- Was a meteorologist
- Studied gases, and discovered properties of gases that he applied to all matter
- His model: **Billiard Ball Model**



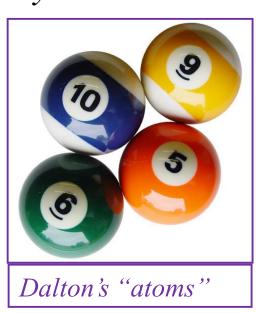


#### **1. John Dalton** (1800)

#### Wrote the \*FIRST Atomic Theory:

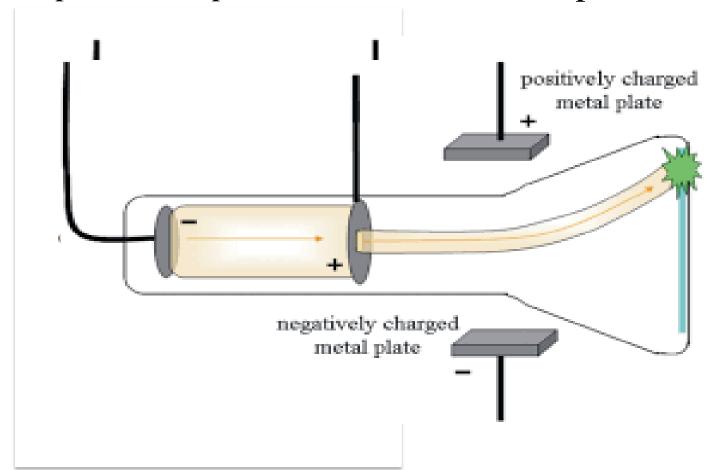
- 1. All matter made of *indivisible* particles *atom*
- 2. Atoms of elements are <u>unique</u>: differing by mass
- 3. Compounds are *combinations* of *elements*
- 4. Atoms *cannot* be *created or destroyed*





#### **2. J. J. Thomson** (1890)

Experiments proved first subatomic particle:



## **2. J. J. Thomson** (1890)

#### Discovery:

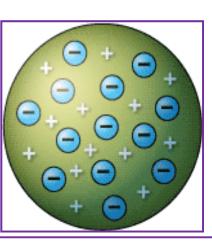
• Electrons: *small*, *negative* electric charges. Electrons are *so small* they are considered "mass-less"

#### Hypothesis for his Plum Pudding:

Atoms are <u>spheres</u> with <u>(+) charges</u> mixed with the same number of <u>(-) electrons</u>.

• Overall an atom is neutral



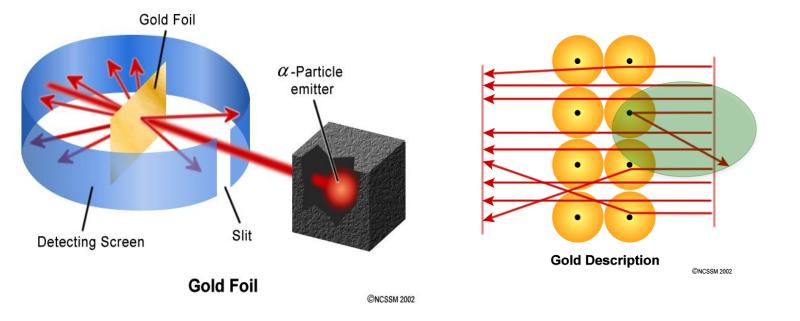


Thomson's "atoms"

#### 3. Ernest Rutherford (1910)

#### "Gold Foil" experiment discovered atomic nucleus

Rutherford basically shot tiny "bullets" at a sheet of gold expecting them to slice right through the thin sheet – *but some bounced straight back!* 



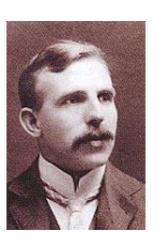
#### Hypothesis for his Nuclear Model:

Atoms composed of <u>empty space</u> with a dense (+) <u>nucleus</u> and tiny (-) <u>electrons</u> flying around.

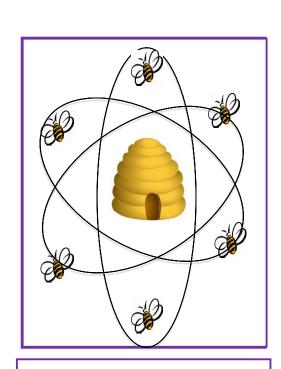
#### Second subatomic particle:

Proton: positive electric charge,

found in nucleus.



Rutherford's model is also called the "bee hive" model



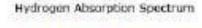
Rutherford's "atoms"

# **4. Niels Bohr** (1913)

# Experiment:

The Flame Test





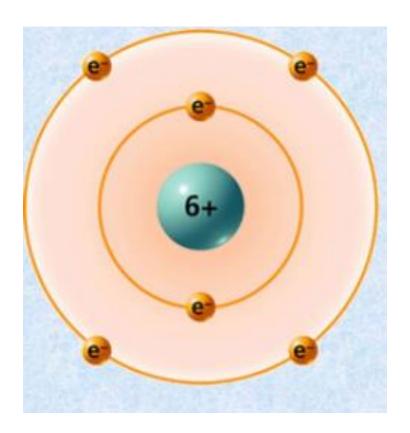


Hydrogen Emission Spectrum



#### **4. Niels Bohr** (1913)

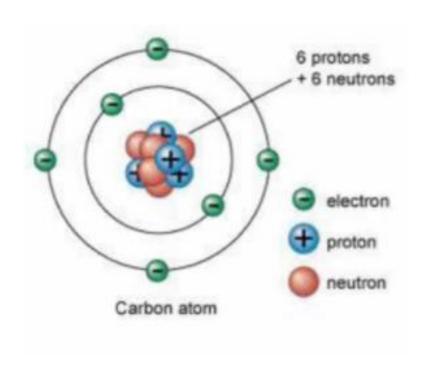
• Improved Rutherford's Model by placing electrons on <u>orbitals</u> (energy levels)

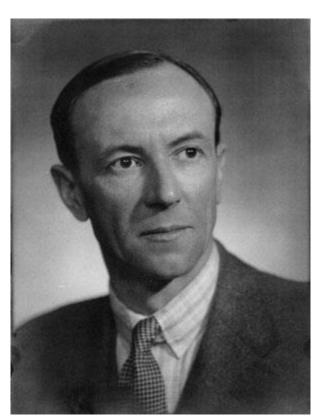


#### 5. Sir James Chadwick (1932)

• Discovered the **third subatomic** particle:

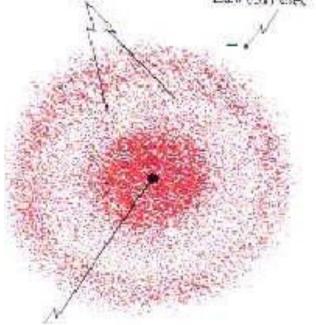
Neutron: <u>found in nucleus</u>, <u>NO</u> charge, the size <u>of protons</u>.



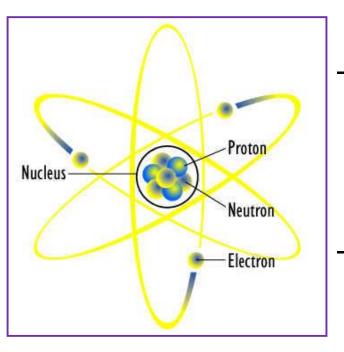


#### 6. Quantum model

- Electrons don't move in a particular orbit
- Cannot determine where an electron is an at specific moment in time.
- Electron's position is based on its energy



# **Summary:**



- The model of an atom took many years to discover
- Many scientists continued to research atoms to come up with a better understanding of matter.
  - Scientists are continuing research with atoms and are still discovering new information

#### What do you need to know about atoms?

• What they are made of (subatomic particles):

Subatomic Particle	Electric Charge	Mass	Location
Protons →	Positive charge	1 amu	Found in the nucleus
Neutrons →	No charge	1amu	Found in the nucleus
Electrons→	Negative charge	No mass	Found around the nucleus

