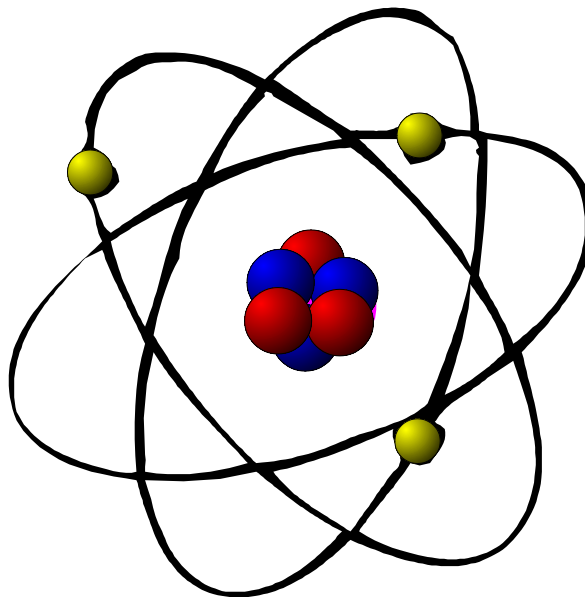


Inside an Atom

Around 460 BC Democritus, a Greek Philosopher, proposed that all matter is composed of particles he called atoms (Greek for particle). His ideas were not popular. They did not fit the observations at that time. The idea of atoms did not take hold for over another 2,000 years. In 1803, John Dalton, an English scientist, made some observations about the relative masses of elements in a compound. He explained his observations by postulating that all matter is made of small particles called atoms. Dalton said all atoms are indestructible, and that they cannot be created or destroyed during chemical or physical changes. He also said all atoms of an element are identical and have the same mass, an idea later disproved. By 1911, Ernest Rutherford found evidence that atoms have a dense, positive core or nucleus with electrons orbiting the nucleus at relatively great distances. This idea, called the nuclear atom or solar system model, with some refinements, is the basic model of the atom that chemists use today.



Imagine you awake one morning and discover that you shrank to an incredibly small size and are trapped inside a carbon atom in your pillow case. What would you see?

- **Write a story, poem, song, comic strip, or do some other creative project based on this scenario.**
 - **Be sure to include all the relevant facts about atomic structure in your work.**
 - **Use reference books for information and add additional sheets if needed.**
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