The Atom

The atom defined: the smallest particle of an element that retains the properties of that element

The development of modern atomic theory began with the work of *John Dalton* in the 19th century. While his theory has since been revised, several points persist in modern atomic theory:

- 1 All matter is composed of atoms.
- 2 Atoms of a specific element are *different* from those of other *elements*.
- 3 Atoms cannot be created or destroyed.
- Different atoms combine in simple whole-number ratios to form compounds.
- In a chemical reaction, atoms are separated, combined, or rearranged.

Atoms are *submicroscopic* matter and can only be viewed with a *scanning tunneling microscope* (STM). How small is an atom? World population (2012) 7,000,000,000 Cu atoms in penny 29,000,000,000,000,000,000

Experiments with cathode rays detected *negative* particles that are part of all matter. In the 1890s, *J.J. Thomson* determined the charge-to-mass ratio of this particle and identified the *electron*. In his Oil Drop Experiment (1909), *Milliken*

calculated the *charge* of the electron and its *mass*, using the known charge-to-mass ratio.

Ernest Rutherford conducted his Gold Foil Experiment in 1911 and developed *nuclear* atomic model. His results showed that an atom consists of:

- The *nucleus*: a tiny, dense, center region containing all the atom's *positive* charge and virtually all of its *mass*.
- The electron cloud: mostly empty space through which electrons rapidly move while held within the atom by their attraction to the nucleus.

In 1920, Rutherford identified the positively charged particle in the nucleus called the *proton*. *James Chadwick* identified the third subatomic particle, the *neutron*, in 1932.

Subatomic Particles

The Electron

Symbol	e
Charge	1 -
Location	empty space outside nucleus
Actual Mass (g)	9.11 × 10⁻²8 g
Relative Mass (amu)	1/1840 amu
Discovered or identified by	J.J. Thomson
The Prot	0 n
Symbol	p or p⁺
Charge	1+
Location	nucleus
Actual Mass (g)	1.673 × 10 ⁻²⁴ g
Relative Mass (amu)	1 amu
Discovered or identified by	Ernest Rutherford
The Neutron	
Symbol	n or n ^g
Charge	0
Location	nucleus
Actual Mass (g)	1.675 × 10⁻²⁴ g
Relative Mass (amu)	1 amu
Discovered or identified by	James Chadwick



In a well-developed paragraph, explain the atom as proposed by modern atomic theory. [Define the atom and discuss the three subatomic particles and their locations, charges, and masses.]