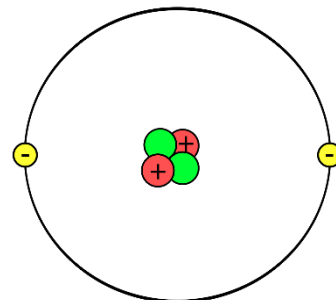


Make Your Own Edible Atoms!

(Suggested Ages: 8+)

Gather

- Pieces of paper or paper plates
- Multicolor mini marshmallows or other candy
- Pens, pencils, or markers



Let's Experiment!

1. Separate the marshmallows or other candy by color.
2. On your paper or plate, draw a small circle to represent the **nucleus** of the atom.
3. Use green marshmallows to represent protons, yellow to represent neutrons, and orange to represent electrons.
4. Place 8 protons and 8 neutrons in the nucleus.
5. Draw two larger circles around the nucleus (like a bullseye). Place 2 electrons in the first circle and 6 electrons in the second circle. You've made an atom of Oxygen!
6. On a separate sheet or plate, draw another nucleus. This time, put 6 protons and 6 neutrons in the nucleus. Draw two circles around the nucleus again. This time, put 2 electrons in the first circle and 4 electrons in the second circle.
7. How are the two models similar? How are they different? Now you can eat them!

How Does it Work?

All of the "stuff" around you is made of matter. The building blocks that make up that matter are **atoms**. Atoms are **SUPER TINY!** Millions and millions of them could fit on the head of a pin! While they may be tiny, atoms are made of even smaller bits called **protons, neutrons, and electrons**. Protons are important because they determine the type and characteristics of an atom, whether it be Neon, Oxygen, or Gold. Electrons are responsible for electricity - we explored static electricity [here](#). Atoms might be tiny, but they are...everything!

Take it Further!

Check out more information on atoms and how we organize them by visiting the following:

http://www.chem4kids.com/files/atom_intro.html

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/video/hunting-the-elements/>