

Of course, I'd be happy to help! The discovery of atoms can be traced back to the ancient Greeks, but it was not until the 19th century that the concept of atoms as we know it today was developed. Here is a brief summary:

- * Ancient Greece (5th - 4th century BCE): The Greek philosopher Democritus proposed the idea of tiny indivisible particles called "atomos" (meaning "indivisible") that made up all matter. He believed that these atoms were eternal and could not be created or destroyed.

- * John Dalton (1803): English chemist and physicist John Dalton proposed the modern atomic theory, which states that elements are composed of small, indivisible particles called atoms, and that compounds are formed when atoms of different elements combine in whole number ratios. He also introduced the concept of atomic weight, which is the average mass of an atom of an element.

- * J.J. Thomson (1897): British physicist J.J. Thomson discovered the electron, which is a subatomic particle that is a fundamental component of atoms. He showed that cathode rays, which are streams of electrons emitted from a negatively charged electrode during an electric discharge, consist of individual electrons rather than being made up of smaller particles.

- * Ernest Rutherford (1911): New Zealand-born physicist Ernest Rutherford conducted experiments that led him to propose the nuclear model of the atom, where most of the atom's mass is concentrated in a very small nucleus at the center of the atom. This model replaced the earlier plum pudding model of the atom, which had the atom filled with a mixture of matter and empty space.

- * Niels Bohr (1913): Danish physicist Niels Bohr further refined the atomic model by proposing that energy levels around the nucleus are like a series of planetary orbits, with the electrons occupying specific energy levels. He also introduced the concept of quantum mechanics, which describes how atoms and molecules behave at the atomic level.

Overall, the discovery of atoms involved a gradual accumulation of knowledge and understanding over several centuries, with many scientists contributing to our current understanding of the basic building blocks of matter.