## The Atom!!!



## In The beginning...

- Matter has mass and takes up space.
- Atoms are basic building blocks of matter, and cannot be chemically broken down by ordinary means.
- The word atom is derived from the Greek word atomos, which means indivisible or uncuttable.
- The Greeks concluded that matter could be broken down into particles too small to be seen
- These particles were called atoms.



## Really small!

- If we stretched a penny until it covered the entire United States, each of its atoms would be only 3 centimeters across!



## 5a. How small is an atom??

## What's an atom made of?

- Even though an atom is really small, it is made of even smaller particles.
- It's basically made of 3 tiny subatomic particles:
- Protons
- Neutrons
- Electrons



## Awful Science Humor

A neutron walks into a diner and orders a glass of orange juice at the counter. When the waiter brings the juice, the neutron asks, "How much do I owe you?"

The waiter replies, "For you, no charge!"


## These things are teeeeny tiny

- The mass of a proton is really small, so small in fact, that scientists created a whole new unit for it.
- A proton has a mass of 1 atomic mass unit (AMU).
- A neutron is actually a little bigger than a proton, but not enough to notice the difference, so we say it also has a mass of 1 AMU.


## Overall Balance

- To review, an atom is made up of 3 types of particles which are:
- Protons (+)
- Neutrons ( 0 )
- Electrons (-)

Notice that the protons and electrons have opposite charges... what does this mean about the overall balance of an atom?
Nucleus (+ charge) = Electron (- charge)



