
The History of the Atom: The Ancient Greeks

Two Dominant Schools of Thought

- Aristotle – Philosopher who was born in the year 384 B.C. Student of Plato and teacher of Alexander the Great.
 - Democritus – Philosopher who was born in the year 460 B.C. Student of Leucippus and proposed a theory for matter.
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Aristotle's Theory

- There is no empty space between matter
 - Matter is one giant jar of jam
 - Matter can be divided infinitely:
 - If you had a magic knife, you can divide something over and over again
 - There is no smallest particle
 - Matter is composed of several elements:
 - Earth, Fire, Air and Water
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Democritus' Theory

- Matter is not infinitely divisible
 - There is a smallest particle that exists and it is called *atomos*, the Greek work for atoms meaning indivisible.
 - There are empty spaces between atoms
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