

# \*Unit 2. Atomic and Electron Structure

Content Area: **Science**  
Course(s):  
Time Period: **October**  
Length: **10 blocks**  
Status: **Published**

## Unit Summary

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All matter is made up of atoms. The composition, arrangement, structure, and properties of atoms all determine how atoms behave. Matter is made of atoms and those atoms are made of subatomic particles. Valence electrons determine the properties of substances. The ancient Greeks tried to explain matter, but the scientific study of the atom began with John Dalton in the early 1800's. From there several atomic models were developed by Thomson, Rutherford, and Bohr. An atom is made of a nucleus containing protons and neutrons; electrons move around the nucleus. The number of protons and the mass number define the type of atom. Unstable atoms emit radiation to gain stability. Under certain conditions, some nuclei can emit alpha, beta, or gamma radiation. Unstable nuclei can break apart spontaneously, changing the identity of atoms. Fission, splitting of nuclei, and fusion, the combining of nuclei, release tremendous amounts of energy. Nuclear reactions have many useful applications, but they also have harmful biological effects. An atom can change within its nucleus and undergo nuclear changes, or change its number of electrons and become an ion.

## Enduring Understandings

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Compare protons, neutrons, and electrons with regard to mass, charge, and location in the atom.

Trace the development of atomic theory.

Deduce and infer atomic structure data from the periodic table

The properties of elements determine how atoms and molecules interact.

Radioactivity and generation of nuclear energy involve the process of fission, fusion, and radioactive decay.

## Essential Questions

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How has the model of the atom evolved?

How does the structure and composition of the atom influence its chemical and physical properties?

How are atoms of one element different from atoms of another element?

How does the electron behave?

How does the quantum mechanical model describe the arrangement of electrons in atoms?

What happens when electrons in atoms absorb or release energy?

## **Student Learning Objectives (PE, SEP, DCI, CCC) & Aligned Standards**

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### **Performance Expectations**

HS-PS1-1. Use the periodic table as a model to predict the relative properties of elements based on the patterns of electrons in the outermost energy level of atoms. [Clarification Statement: Examples of properties that could be predicted from patterns could include reactivity of metals, types of bonds formed, numbers of bonds formed, and reactions with oxygen.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to main group elements. Assessment does not include quantitative understanding of ionization energy beyond relative trends.]

HS-PS1-3. Plan and conduct an investigation to gather evidence to compare the structure of substances at the bulk scale to infer the strength of electrical forces between particles. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on understanding the strengths of forces between particles, not on naming specific intermolecular forces (such as dipole-dipole). Examples of particles could include ions, atoms, molecules, and networked materials (such as graphite). Examples of bulk properties of substances could include the melting point and boiling point, vapor pressure, and surface tension.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include Raoult's law calculations of vapor pressure.]

HS-PS1-8. Develop models to illustrate the changes in the composition of the nucleus of the atom and the energy released during the processes of fission, fusion, and radioactive decay. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on simple qualitative models, such as pictures or diagrams, and on the scale of energy released in nuclear processes relative to other kinds of transformations.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include quantitative calculation of energy released. Assessment is limited to alpha, beta, and gamma radioactive decays.]

HS-PS2-6. Communicate scientific and technical information about why the molecular-level structure is important in the functioning of designed materials.\* [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on the attractive and repulsive forces that determine the functioning of the material. Examples could include why electrically conductive materials are often made of metal, flexible but durable materials are made up of long chained molecules, and pharmaceuticals are designed to interact with specific receptors.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to provided molecular structures of specific designed materials.]

HS-PS2-4. Use mathematical representations of Newton's Law of Gravitation and Coulomb's Law to describe and predict the gravitational and electrostatic forces between objects. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on both quantitative and conceptual descriptions of gravitational and electric fields.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to systems with two objects.]

HS-PS4-1. Use mathematical representations to support a claim regarding relationships among the frequency, wavelength, and speed of waves traveling in various media. [Clarification Statement: Examples of data could include electromagnetic radiation traveling in a vacuum and glass, sound waves traveling through air and water, and seismic waves traveling through the Earth.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to algebraic relationships and describing those relationships qualitatively.]

HS-PS4-3. Evaluate the claims, evidence, and reasoning behind the idea that electromagnetic radiation can be described either by a wave model or a particle model, and that for some situations one model is more useful than the other. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on how the experimental evidence supports the claim and how a theory is generally modified in light of new evidence. Examples of a phenomenon could include resonance, interference, diffraction, and photoelectric effect.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include using quantum theory.]

HS-PS4-4. Evaluate the validity and reliability of claims in published materials of the effects that different frequencies of electromagnetic radiation have when absorbed by matter. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is

on the idea that photons associated with different frequencies of light have different energies, and the damage to living tissue from electromagnetic radiation depends on the energy of the radiation. Examples of published materials could include trade books, magazines, web resources, videos, and other passages that may reflect bias.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to qualitative descriptions.]

HS-ESS1-1. Develop a model based on evidence to illustrate the life span of the sun and the role of nuclear fusion in the sun's core to release energy that eventually reaches Earth in the form of radiation. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on the energy transfer mechanisms that allow energy from nuclear fusion in the sun's core to reach Earth. Examples of evidence for the model include observations of the masses and lifetimes of other stars, as well as the ways that the sun's radiation varies due to sudden solar flares ("space weather"), the 11-year sunspot cycle, and non-cyclic variations over centuries.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include details of the atomic and sub-atomic processes involved with the sun's nuclear fusion.]

HS-ESS1-2. Construct an explanation of the Big Bang theory based on astronomical evidence of light spectra, motion of distant galaxies, and composition of matter in the universe. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on the astronomical evidence of the red shift of light from galaxies as an indication that the universe is currently expanding, the cosmic microwave background as the remnant radiation from the Big Bang, and the observed composition of ordinary matter of the universe, primarily found in stars and interstellar gases (from the spectra of electromagnetic radiation from stars), which matches that predicted by the Big Bang theory (3/4 hydrogen and 1/4 helium).]

HS-ESS1-3. Communicate scientific ideas about the way stars, over their life cycle, produce elements. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on the way nucleosynthesis, and therefore the different elements created, varies as a function of the mass of a star and the stage of its lifetime.] [Assessment Boundary: Details of the many different nucleosynthesis pathways for stars of differing masses are not assessed.]

## Science and Engineering Practices

### Developing and Using Models

Modeling in 9–12 builds on K–8 and progresses to using, synthesizing, and developing models to predict and show relationships among variables between systems and their components in the natural and designed worlds.

- Use a model to predict the relationships between systems or between components of a system.

### Planning and Carrying Out Investigations

- Plan and conduct an investigation individually and collaboratively to produce data to serve as the basis for evidence, and in the design: decide on types, how much, and accuracy of data needed to produce reliable measurements and consider limitations on the precision of the data (e.g., number of trials, cost, risk, time), and refine the design accordingly.

### Analyzing and Interpreting Data

Analyzing data in 9–12 builds on K–8 experiences and progresses to introducing more detailed statistical analysis, the comparison of data sets for consistency, and the use of models to generate and analyze data.

- Analyze data using tools, technologies, and/or models (e.g., computational, mathematical) in order to

make valid and reliable scientific claims or determine an optimal design solution.

## **Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information**

Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information in 9–12 builds on K–8 and progresses to evaluating the validity and reliability of the claims, methods, and designs.

- Communicate scientific and technical information (e.g. about the process of development and the design and performance of a proposed process or system) in multiple formats (including orally, graphically, textually, and mathematically).

## **Disciplinary Core Ideas**

### **PS1.A: Structure and Properties of Matter**

- Each atom has a charged substructure consisting of a nucleus, which is made of protons and neutrons, surrounded by electrons.
- The structure and interactions of matter at the bulk scale are determined by electrical forces within and between atoms.

### **PS2.B: Types of Interactions**

- Attraction and repulsion between electric charges at the atomic scale explain the structure, properties, and transformations of matter, as well as the contact forces between material objects.

## **Crosscutting Concepts**

### **Patterns**

Different patterns may be observed at each of the scales at which a system is studied and can provide evidence for causality in explanations of phenomena.

### **Systems and System Models**

Models (e.g., physical, mathematical, computer models) can be used to simulate systems and interactions—including energy, matter, and information flows— within and between systems at different scales.

### **Structure and Function**

Investigating or designing new systems or structures requires a detailed examination of the properties of different materials, the structures of different components, and connections of components to reveal its function and/or solve a problem.

CRP.K-12.CRP2

Apply appropriate academic and technical skills.

CRP.K-12.CRP2.1

Career-ready individuals readily access and use the knowledge and skills acquired through experience and education to be more productive. They make connections between abstract concepts with real-world applications, and they make correct insights about when it is appropriate to apply the use of an academic skill in a workplace situation.

CRP.K-12.CRP4

Communicate clearly and effectively and with reason.

CRP.K-12.CRP4.1	Career-ready individuals communicate thoughts, ideas, and action plans with clarity, whether using written, verbal, and/or visual methods. They communicate in the workplace with clarity and purpose to make maximum use of their own and others' time. They are excellent writers; they master conventions, word choice, and organization, and use effective tone and presentation skills to articulate ideas. They are skilled at interacting with others; they are active listeners and speak clearly and with purpose. Career-ready individuals think about the audience for their communication and prepare accordingly to ensure the desired outcome.
CRP.K-12.CRP6	Demonstrate creativity and innovation.
CAEP.9.2.12.C.1	Review career goals and determine steps necessary for attainment.
CAEP.9.2.12.C.3	Identify transferable career skills and design alternate career plans.

## Concepts & Skills

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Describe Democritus' ideas about atoms.

Explain Dalton's atomic theory.

Identify three types of subatomic particles.

Describe the structure of atoms according to the Rutherford atomic model.

Explain what makes elements and isotopes different from each other.

Calculate the number of neutrons in an atom.

Calculate the atomic mass of an element.

Explain how an unstable nucleus releases energy.

Describe the three main types of nuclear radiation.

Describe the type of decay a radioisotope undergoes.

Solve problems that involve half life.

Identify the two ways transmutation can occur.

Describe what happens in a nuclear chain reaction.

Distinguish fission reactions from fusion reactions.

Identify three devices that are used to detect radiation.

Describe how radioisotopes are used in medicine.


Identify the new proposal in the Bohr model of the atom.

Describe how to write electron configurations.

Explain why the actual electron configurations for some elements differ from those predicted by the Aufbau principle

## Resources

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 [Castle of Mendeleev](#): Students engage in a fantasy world that requires them to make claims, based on evidence, regarding the identity of unknown materials.

Practice Worksheets for each section

Build an atom (phet simulation- online- HTML5) <https://phet.colorado.edu/en/simulation/build-an-atom> (HS-PS1-1, HS-PS1-2)

Calculating Average Atomic Mass Cadium Lab

Isotopes and atomic mass (phet simulation- online- HTML5) <https://phet.colorado.edu/en/simulation/isotopes-and-atomic-mass> (HS-PS1-1, HS-PS1-2)

Atoms and their Isotopes POGIL (HS-PS1-1, HS-PS1-2)

Alpha Decay(phet simulations- on-line Java) <https://phet.colorado.edu/en/simulation/legacy/alpha-decay> , Beta Decay (phet simulations on-line Java) , Nuclear Fission(phet simulations on-line Java) <https://phet.colorado.edu/en/simulation/legacy/nuclear-fission> (HS-PS1-8)

Half Life Cadium Lab (HS-PS1-8)

Half life simulation

lab. [http://www.glencoe.com/sites/common\\_assets/science/virtual\\_labs/E18/E18.html](http://www.glencoe.com/sites/common_assets/science/virtual_labs/E18/E18.html) (HS-PS1-8)

Radioactive Dating Game (phet simulations on-line Java) <https://phet.colorado.edu/en/simulation/legacy/radioactive-dating-game> (HS-PS1-8)

Microwaves (phet simulation online-Java) <https://phet.colorado.edu/en/simulation/legacy/microwaves> (HS-PS1-8)

Spectroscopy and Flame Test Lab (HS-PS1-1)

## **Assessments**

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**Assessments will also include warm up quizzes, exit passes, quizzes and tests.**

**Assessments will be aligned to the Performance Expectations and will include a variety of assessment types such as labs, writing prompts, and projects.**

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## **Connecting with English Language Arts Literacy and Mathematics**

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### *English Language Arts/Literacy*

- Ask and refine questions to support uniform energy distribution among the components in a system when two components of different temperature are combined, using specific textual evidence.
- Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to determine energy distribution in a system when two components of different temperature are combined.
- Collect relevant data across a broad spectrum of sources about the distribution of energy in a system and assess the strengths and limitations of each source.
- Synthesize findings from experimental data into a coherent understanding of energy distribution in a system.
- Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to determine how the properties of water affect Earth materials and surface processes.
- Cite specific textual evidence to evaluate competing design solutions for developing, managing, and utilizing energy and mineral resources based on cost–benefit ratios.
- Evaluate the hypotheses, data, analysis, and conclusions of competing design solutions for developing, managing, and utilizing energy and mineral resources based on cost–benefit ratios, verifying the data when possible and corroborating or challenging conclusions with other design solutions.
- Integrate and evaluate multiple design solutions for developing, managing, and utilizing energy and mineral resources based on cost–benefit ratios in order to reveal meaningful patterns and trends.
- Evaluate the hypotheses, data, analysis, and conclusions of competing design solutions for developing, managing, and utilizing energy and mineral resources based on cost–benefit ratios, verifying the data when possible and corroborating or challenging conclusions with other design solutions.
- Synthesize data from multiple sources of information in order to create data sets that inform design decisions and create a coherent understanding of developing, managing, and utilizing energy and mineral resources.

### *Mathematics*

- Use symbols to represent energy distribution in a system when two components of different temperature are combined, and manipulate the representing symbols. Make sense of quantities and relationships in the energy distribution in a system when two components of different temperature are combined.
- Use a mathematical model to describe energy distribution in a system when two components of different temperature are combined. Identify important quantities in energy distribution in a system when two components of different temperature are combined and map their relationships using tools. Analyze those relationships mathematically to draw conclusions, reflecting on the results and improving the model if it has not served its purpose.
- Choose a level of accuracy appropriate to limitations on measurement when reporting quantities of the



properties of water and their effects on Earth materials and surface processes.

- Use symbols to represent an explanation of the best of multiple design solutions for developing, managing, and utilizing energy and mineral resources and manipulate the representing symbols. Make sense of quantities and relationships in cost–benefit ratios for multiple design solutions for developing, managing, and utilizing energy and mineral resources symbolically and manipulate the representing symbols.
- Use a mathematical model to explain the evaluation of multiple design solutions for developing, managing, and utilizing energy and mineral resources. Identify important quantities in cost–benefit ratios for multiple design solutions for developing, managing, and utilizing energy and mineral resources and map their relationships using tools. Analyze those relationships mathematically to draw conclusions, reflecting on the results and improving the model if it has not served its purpose.

## **Modifications**

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*Teacher Note: Teachers identify the modifications that they will use in the unit.*

- Restructure lesson using UDL principals ([http://www.cast.org/our-work/about-udl.html#.VXmoXcfD\\_UA](http://www.cast.org/our-work/about-udl.html#.VXmoXcfD_UA))
- Structure lessons around questions that are authentic, relate to students’ interests, social/family background and knowledge of their community.
- Provide students with multiple choices for how they can represent their understandings (e.g. multisensory techniques-auditory/visual aids; pictures, illustrations, graphs, charts, data tables, multimedia, modeling).
- Provide opportunities for students to connect with people of similar backgrounds (e.g. conversations via digital tool such as SKYPE, experts from the community helping with a project, journal articles, and biographies).
- Provide multiple grouping opportunities for students to share their ideas and to encourage work among various backgrounds and cultures (e.g. multiple representation and multimodal experiences).
- Engage students with a variety of Science and Engineering practices to provide students with multiple entry points and multiple ways to demonstrate their understandings.
- Use project-based science learning to connect science with observable phenomena.
- Structure the learning around explaining or solving a social or community-based issue.
- Provide ELL students with multiple literacy strategies.
- Collaborate with after-school programs or clubs to extend learning opportunities.

## **Prior Learning**

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## By the end of Grade 8, students know that:

### *Physical science*

- Substances are made from different types of atoms, which combine with one another in various ways.
- Atoms form molecules that range in size from two atoms to thousands of atoms.
- Each pure substance has characteristic physical and chemical properties (for any bulk quantity under given conditions) that can be used to identify it.
- Gases and liquids are made of molecules or inert atoms that are moving about relative to each other.
- In a liquid, the molecules are constantly in contact with others.
- In a gas, they are widely spaced except when they happen to collide.
- In a solid, atoms are closely spaced and may vibrate in position but do not change relative locations.
- Solids may be formed from molecules or they may be extended structures with repeating subunits (e.g., crystals).
- The changes of state that occur with variations in temperature or pressure can be described and predicted using these models of matter.
- Substances react chemically in characteristic ways.
- In a chemical process, the atoms that make up the original substances are regrouped into different molecules, and these new substances have different properties from those of the reactants.
- The total number of each type of atom is conserved, and thus the mass does not change.
- Some chemical reactions release energy, others store energy.
- The abundance of liquid water on Earth's surface and its unique combination of physical and chemical properties are central to the planet's dynamics.
- These physical and chemical properties include water's exceptional capacity to absorb, store, and release large amounts of energy; transmit sunlight; expand upon freezing; dissolve and transport materials; and lower the viscosities and melting point of rocks.

## **Connections to Other Courses**

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### *Physical science*

- Each atom has a charged substructure consisting of a nucleus made of protons and neutrons and surrounded by electrons.
- The periodic table orders elements horizontally by the number of protons in the nucleus of each element's atoms and places elements with similar chemical properties in columns. The repeating patterns of this table reflect patterns of outer electron states.
- The structure and interactions of matter at the bulk scale are determined by electrical forces within and between atoms.
- A stable molecule has less energy than does the same set of atoms separated; at least this much energy is required in order to take the molecule apart.
- Chemical processes, their rates, and whether or not they store or release energy can be understood in terms of the collisions of molecules and the rearrangements of atoms into new molecules, with consequent changes in the sum of all bond energies in the set of molecules that are matched by changes in kinetic energy.
- In many situations, a dynamic and condition-dependent balance between a reaction and the reverse reaction determines the numbers of all types of molecules present.

- The fact that atoms are conserved in chemical reactions, together with knowledge of the chemical properties of the elements involved, can be used to describe and predict chemical reactions.
- Conservation of energy means that the total change of energy in any system is always equal to the total energy transferred into or out of the system.
- Energy cannot be created or destroyed, but it can be transported from one place to another and transferred between systems.
- Mathematical expressions, which quantify how the energy stored in a system depends on its configuration (e.g., relative positions of charged particles, compression of a spring) and how kinetic energy depends on mass and speed, allow the concept of conservation of energy to be used to predict and describe system behavior.
- The availability of energy limits what can occur in any system.
- Uncontrolled systems always evolve toward more stable states—that is, toward more uniform energy distribution (e.g., water flows downhill, objects hotter than their surrounding environment cool down).
- Although energy cannot be destroyed, it can be converted to less useful forms—for example, to thermal energy in the surrounding environment.

### *Life Science*

- Ecosystems have carrying capacities, which are limits to the numbers of organisms and populations they can support. These limits result from such factors as the availability of living and nonliving resources and from such challenges such as predation, competition, and disease. Organisms would have the capacity to produce populations of great size were it not for the fact that environments and resources are finite. This fundamental tension affects the abundance (number of individuals) of species in any given ecosystem.

## **Connections to NJSL ELA & MATH**

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### ELA Literacy

- RST.9-10.7** Translate quantitative or technical information expressed in words in a text into visual form (e.g., a table or chart) and translate information expressed visually or mathematically (e.g., in an equation) into words. (HS-PS1-1)
- RST.11-12.1** Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of science and technical texts, attending to important distinctions the author makes and to any gaps or inconsistencies in the account. (HS-PS1-3),(HS-PS1-5)
- WHST.9-12.2** Write informative/explanatory texts, including the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/ experiments, or technical processes. (HS-PS1-2),(HS-PS1-5)
- WHST.9-12.5** Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience. (HS-PS1-2)
- WHST.9-12.7** Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation. (HS-PS1-3),(HS-PS1-6)
- WHST.11-12.8** Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the strengths and limitations of each source in terms of the specific task, purpose, and audience; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and overreliance on any one source and following a standard format for citation. (HS-PS1-3)
- WHST.9-12.9** Draw evidence from informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research. (HS-PS1-3)

**SL.11-12.5** Make strategic use of digital media (e.g., textual, graphical, audio, visual, and interactive elements) in presentations to enhance understanding of findings, reasoning, and evidence and to add interest. (HS-PS1-4)

Mathematics -

**MP.2** Reason abstractly and quantitatively. (HS-PS1-5),(HS-PS1-7)

**MP.4** Model with mathematics. (HS-PS1-4),(HS-PS1-8)

**HSN-Q.A.1** Use units as a way to understand problems and to guide the solution of multi-step problems; choose and interpret units consistently in formulas; choose and interpret the scale and the origin in graphs and data displays. (HS-PS1-2),(HS-PS1-3),(HS-PS1-4),(HS-PS1-5),(HS-PS1-7),(HS-PS1-8)

**HSN-Q.A.2** Define appropriate quantities for the purpose of descriptive modeling. (HS-PS1-4),(HS-PS1-7),(HS-PS1-8)

**HSN-Q.A.3** Choose a level of accuracy appropriate to limitations on measurement when reporting quantities. (HS-PS1-2),(HS-PS1-3),(HS-PS1-4),(HS-PS1-5),(HS-PS1-7),(HS-PS1-8)