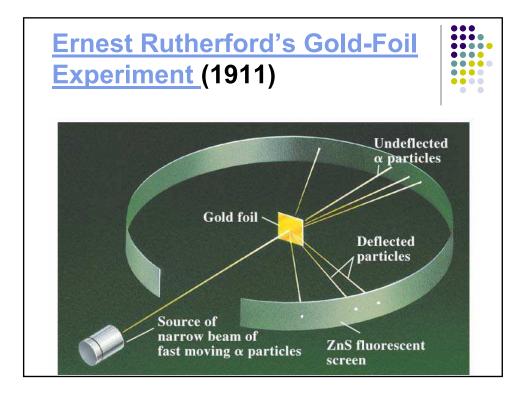


A quick summary about atoms:

- Atoms were used by John Dalton (1804) to explain the Law of Definite Proportions: if elements combine only in definite proportions by weight, the simplest explanation is that whole numbers of atoms combine into specific molecules. Atoms were considered to be indivisible, the smallest possible pieces of matter.
- Atoms were not considered real by many chemists for at least 50 years, but...



- In 1899, J.J. Thomson discovered the electron (<u>Nobel</u> <u>Prize, 1906</u>) and proposed the "plum pudding model" of the atom, in which the atom has simpler structural components.
- In 1905 Albert Einstein proved that atoms must exist (he showed that Brownian Motion would look different if there weren't really atoms and molecules shoving particles around). This later won the <u>Nobel Prize for Jean Perrin in</u> <u>1926</u>.



Ernest Rutherford's Gold-Foil Experiment (1911)



"It was almost like firing a 15-inch shell at some tissue paper and having it bounce back."

— Ernest Rutherford

