



Activity 2. Draw an atom

Learning Intentions

Students will think critically about their understanding of an atom.

Materials

- Pencils, crayons
- Paper
- Online drawing tool (optional)

Teacher notes

To understand electricity, it helps to understand the structure of the atom, knowledge that the scientists of the 17th through to the 19th centuries lacked when developing their ideas about the nature of electricity.

Compare student drawings to the historical models such as J. J. Thompson's Plum Pudding model outlined in the resource.

As part of a more in-depth explanation of the atom following their drawing of the atom, explain some of the limitations associated with each model.

This is the preparatory activity for the activity, [Building an atom](#).

To facilitate some critical reflection, repeat this activity at the end of the unit or the activities you conduct to see if students' understanding of the atom and its structure has changed.

Teaching notes: Running the activity

Small student groups

With only minimal introduction to the concept of an atom, ask student to draw what they think an atom looks like.

This first drawing will provide a baseline understanding of students' perception of an atom.