

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

The Assignment

Research Ernest Rutherford and his 1909-1911 experiment on atomic structure (the “gold foil” experiment, also called the “Geiger-Marsden Experiment.”) Write a short (1-2 page) summary report that includes:

- The model of the atom that existed before Rutherford’s work
- How Rutherford’s model of the atom was different from the previous model of the atom
- At least three of the scientists that Rutherford worked with and what their contributions to scientific knowledge were
- Images are ok, but please explain them in the report.

You may use any resources available to you: internet, library, other teachers, etc.

Please cite all your sources in a bibliography (Science Fair style).

Grading Rubric

There are 20 possible points on this assignment, as follows:

4 points. Complete, correct, and clear description of the experiment. Reader is enlightened.	3 points. Main ideas present, some details are lacking. Reader understands reasonably well the basics.	2 points. Some ideas are present, but reader is unable to come away understanding the whole.	1 point. Reader goes away confused about the topic.
Description of the “gold foil” experiment (4 pts)			
Description of JJ Thompson’s “plum pudding model of the atom” (4 pts)			
Differences between Thompson’s model and Rutherford’s model of the atom explained. (4 pts)			
Scientists that Rutherford worked with and their contributions included. (1 point for each scientist included AND that scientist’s contribution to science. 3 pts.)			
Bibliography included? (1 point: yes or no)			
Style points (a subjective score, up to 4 points)			
Comments:			