The search for a description of matter began with the Greek philosopher Democritus more than 2000 years ago. He and many other philosophers had puzzled over this question: Could matter be divided into smaller and smaller pieces forever, or was there a limit to the number of times a piece of matter could be divided? After much observation and eventually, Dalton puzzled moving question: Could matter be divided into smaller and smaller pieces forever, had investigate divided. was there a limit to the number of times a piece of matter divided looked or been could number. After much observation and eventually, Democritus concluded that matter could not be divided into smaller and smaller pieces. Eventually the smallest possible piece would be obtained. This piece would be indivisible. Democritus named this smallest piece of matter atomos. The atom comes from the word atomos, meaning “not to be cut,” or “indivisible.”

The Greek philosophers who shared Democritus’ belief about the atom were atom. The atom comes from the word atomos, meaning Greek for puzzled. The atomists had no way of knowing what atoms were or how they looked him performed. But they hypothesized that atoms were small discovered and particles that were all made the same material but were of shapes and sizes. Also, they hypothesized they were infinite in number, always, and capable of joining together. Although and the other atomists were on.
Democritus who study composition hypothesized the right train, the theory of atoms ignored and forgotten. Few people believed the same atomists was idea. In fact, it took almost 2100 years before an atomic model of was accepted. In the early 1800’s, English chemist John Dalton performed a number description matter of experiments that eventually led to acceptance of the idea of atoms. had long been interested in meteorology, study of weather. His observations about composition of air led him to the properties of gases. He discovered gases combine as if they were of individual particles. These particles were the atoms of Democritus.
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8-20: Matter by A. Maton et al. (L=970)
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