

Love those atoms

I just had to write and thank Science Scope and Kathleen Crawford for the article "Introducing . . . The Atoms Family" (October 1994, p. 18). I love using songs in science class, so I couldn't wait to use "The Atoms Family" when I introduced atomic structure to my sixth graders.

They loved it! The story about Nerdy Nelda Neutron, Perky Pat Proton, and Enraged Elliot Electron really helped them remember the parts of an atom. I even had a parent write me a note saying she enjoyed listening to her child tell the story and that "after all these years, atoms make more sense to me."

I did challenge my students to write another verse to the song. I had several students submit proposed verses, but I am sharing the one that the class thought was the best:

*Neutrons can be found
Where protons hang around.
Electrons they surround
The Atoms Family.*

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JANUARY 1995

This verse was written by Jaimi Taylor, and we hope you think it is as good as we think it is.

Thanks for sharing such great ideas! I look forward to my magazine every month.

JODY HODGES
WHITE SETTLEMENT, TEXAS

Planet plea

In the "Scope on the Skies" articles, we teachers need easy-to-find accounts of where the planets are located. If the drawings take up too much space, please at least list them as you used to.

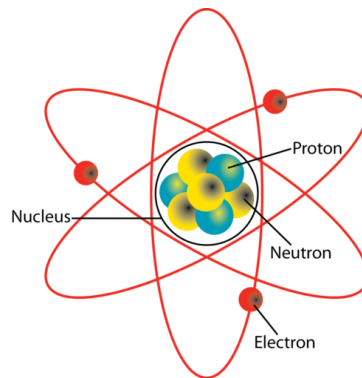
We teachers and students can use the planet information quickly and easily. We always enjoy the star chart, but we could get this information quite easily from the little star charts where you simply dial in the month and time of night. We depend upon Science Scope to help us with planet positions.

I have used Science Scope with my students for the past six years, and we have always been eager for the next issue to come. Your articles continue to be good, but please return to keeping us informed about what planets are visible and where to find them.

ANN EDWARDS
FOUR SEASONS, MISSOURI

Editor's reply: We're glad to hear the planet listings, and the journal, are so useful to you. We'll be sure to include this information whenever possible. See page 52 for this month's planet locations.

Science Scope welcomes your comments. Please write to us at
Editor, Science Scope
1840 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22201-3000;
or contact us via e-mail at
sciscope@nsta.org.



"The Atoms Family" Verse 1 & 2

by Kathleen Crawford published Oct. 1994

Sung to the tune of "The Adams Family"

(1) They're tiny and they're teeny,
Much smaller than a beany,
They never can be seeny,
The Atoms Family

(chorus)

They are so small.
(snap, snap)
They're round like a ball.
(snap, snap)
They make up the air.
They're everywhere.
Can't see them at all!
(snap, snap)

(2) Together they make gases,
And liquids like molasses,
And all the tiny masses,
The Atoms Family
(Repeat chorus)

(3) The neutrons can be found
Where protons hang around
Electrons – they surround
The Atoms Family
(repeat chorus)

Verse 3 was written by Jaimi Taylor, a 6th grade student in Jody Hodges' class at Brewer Middle School in White Settlement, TX
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