

# Physical Science Readers: *Investigating the Chemistry of Atoms*

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## **Teacher Created Materials Publishing**

5301 Oceanus Drive  
Huntington Beach, CA 92649-1030  
<http://www.tcmpub.com>

**ISBN 978-0-7439-0569-5**

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## Nature's Building Blocks

This book has something important in common with the breakfast you ate this morning. Your breakfast has something in common with your hands holding this book. In fact, everything around you has it in common. Can you guess what it is?

All things are made of **matter**. Matter makes up everything. Scientists say that matter is anything that takes up space. Even if the space is too small to see, matter is still there.

But what is matter made of? No matter what, matter is made of tiny **particles**. They are called **atoms**. Atoms are the building blocks of everything. They are everywhere. They are the air you breathe. They are the food you eat, the things you touch, and the clothes you wear. They are every part of you.

