

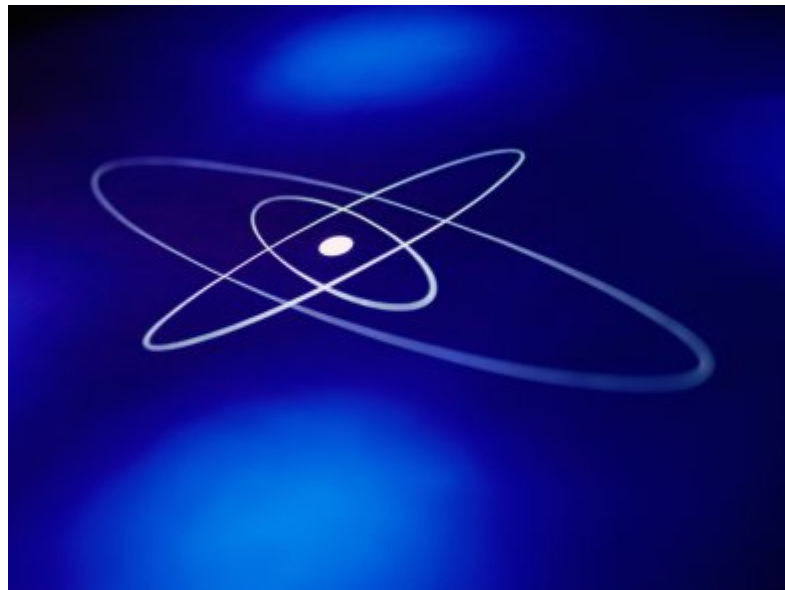
# 140th Birthday of Ernest Rutherford



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**Ernest Rutherford is known as the father of nuclear physics.** Born on August 30th 1871 in New Zealand, he attended the University of New Zealand, Wellington, and graduated in 1893 with a double first in Mathematics and Physical Science. He moved to McGill University, Montreal, Canada, in 1898, where he worked on radioactive bodies, particularly on the emission of alpha rays. He differentiated and named alpha and beta radiation and discovered the concept of radioactive half-life. For this work, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1908.

Rutherford performed his most famous work after he had moved to Cambridge University, UK, in 1907. His investigations into the scattering of alpha rays and the nature of the inner structure of the atom which caused such scattering led to the postulation of the "nucleus" as a concept. He was instrumental in defining elements by their atomic number and was the first to deliberately transmute one element into another — nitrogen into an oxygen isotope.

Rutherford died in 1937 and was buried in Westminster Abbey, London, UK, next to other great scientists such as Newton and Kelvin. In 1997, element 104 was named rutherfordium in his honor.

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