2017 chemistry Nobel prize made simple

Jacques Dubochet, Joachim Frank and Richard Henderson received a Nobel prize (like an Oscar, but for chemistry) on the 4 October 2017 for developing a technique called **cryo-electron microscopy**.

With this technique, scientists can look at **biological molecules**, like proteins or viruses, in **much more detail** than before. This helps better understand how they function.

Normal electron microscopy does not work as well because bio-molecules are damaged by the electron beam. Inventors of cryo-EM found cooling them to - 196°C stops the damage. That's **very cold!**



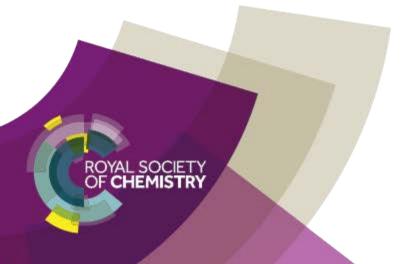
Read the full article at <u>rsc.li/2yltdlh</u>, published 9 October 2017

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Have a think about:

- 1. Why is it helpful to understand biomolecules in lots of detail?
- 2. What do you think "cryo-" means?
- 3. Have you heard of any other techniques scientists use to study molecules in detail?