



LOUIS PASTEUR



Born - 27th December 1822, France

Died - 28th September 1895

Pasteur was a French biologist, microbiologist and chemist remembered for his breakthrough in the causes and preventions of disease.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENT

Louis Pasteur discovered that germs cause disease. Before he made this discovery, doctors had noticed bacteria, but they believed it was the disease that caused the bacteria rather than the other way round. He created the first vaccines for rabies and anthrax (a disease which affects animals mainly).

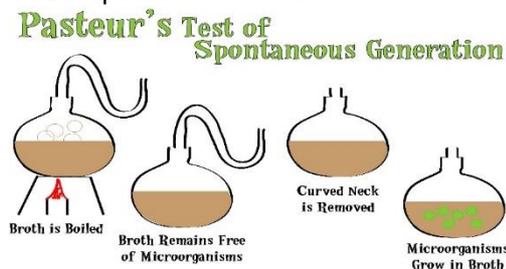
EARLY LIFE

Born in December 1822 in France, Louis was the youngest of three. His family had been leather tanners for generations. He was not very academic and preferred fishing and sketching. Spurred by his mentors' encouragement, he undertook rigorous studies to compensate for his academic shortcomings to prepare for the École Normale Supérieure, the famous teachers' college in Paris. He earned his master's degree there in 1845 and his doctorate in 1847. Pasteur became Professor of Chemistry at the University of Strasbourg in 1848 and was married to Marie Laurent in 1849.

HIS THEORIES

His medical discoveries provided direct support for the germ theory of disease and its application in clinical medicine.

Pasteur was responsible for disproving the theory of spontaneous generation (that living things come from non-living things). He performed experiments that showed that, without contamination, microorganisms could not develop. Pasteur showed that in sterilised and sealed swan necked flasks nothing ever developed but in sterilized open flasks microorganisms could grow. Although Pasteur was not the first to propose the germ theory, his experiments indicated its correctness and convinced most of Europe that it was true.



PASTEURISATION

He is best known to the general public for his invention of the technique of treating milk and wine to stop bacterial contamination, a process now called pasteurisation (named after him). He is regarded as one of the three main founders of bacteriology, together with Ferdinand Cohn and Robert Koch, and is popularly known as the "father of microbiology".

He was the director of the Pasteur Institute, established in 1887, until his death, and his body was placed in a vault beneath the institute.



FIND OUT MORE...

<https://www.sciencekids.co.nz/sciencefacts/scientists/louispasteur.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xmyBtrqC-rw>

EXAMPLE QUESTIONS:

- 1 What nationality was Louis Pasteur?
- 2 What do germs cause?
- 3 What is the name he used for the sterilization process?
4. What year did Pasteur become the professor of chemistry at the Strasbourg university?
5. Pasteur was known as the Father of what?