

The Cell Theory Timeline

1665 -- Robert Hooke

English physicist Robert Hooke looked at a sliver of cork through a microscope lens and noticed some "pores" or "cells" in it. He believed the cells had served as containers for the "noble juices" or "fibrous threads" of the once-living cork tree. Hooke was the first person to use the word "cell" to identify microscopic structures when he was describing cork.



1838 -- Matthias Schleiden

He was a botanist who realized that plants are made of cells and recognized the importance of cells as fundamental units of life.



1831 - Robert Brown

Robert Brown discovered the cell nucleus.



1839 -- Theodor Schwann

Schwann proposed that all organisms are composed of cells. He also discovered the cells, now known as Schwann cells, that form a sheath surrounding nerve axons and conducted experiments that helped disprove the theory of spontaneous generation.



1600

1700

1800

1900

1674 -- Anton Van Leeuwenhoek

Anton Van Leeuwenhoek was the

first to see and realize bacteria and microorganisms found in pond water organisms using a microscope.



1855 - Rudolf Virchow

Rudolf Virchow published his now-famous aphorism *omnis cellula e cellula* ("every cell stems from another cell"). He worked to understanding diseases. While viewing a bacterium under the microscope he saw one become 2 bacteria.



1864 -- Louis Pasteur

Louis Pasteur did an experiment that determined that soup exposed to air only spoiled if the air was not filtered or if the flask containing the soup had an opening that allowed micro organisms to get to the soup. If he used flasks with long S-shaped necks the micro organisms that spoiled the soup settled in the neck and did not spoil the soup.

