Louis Pasteur.

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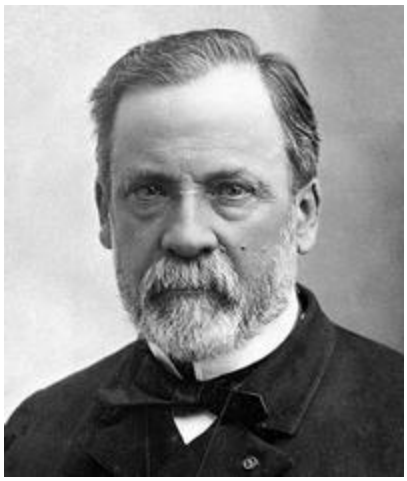
- **Born:** December 27, 1822
- **Birthplace:** Dôle, Jura, France
- **Died:** September 28, 1895
- **Place of death:** Villenueve-l'Étang, near Saint Cloud, France

Louis Pasteur was a French scientist who lived from 1822 to 1895. He studied why people and animals got sick. His studies helped scientists make medicine for sick people. His studies also helped doctors keep people healthy.



French biologist Louis Pasteur, 1878. Paul Nadar / Public domain

1885 portrait of Pasteur in his laboratory. Albert Edelfelt / Public domain

Early Life

Louis Pasteur was born in 1822 in France. He went to college in Paris, France. After college, he taught **chemistry** at the University of Science in Strasbourg, France. Chemistry is the study of chemical **reactions** , or changes, in **matter** . Everything you see, taste, touch, or smell is matter.

Pasteurization

In 1854, Pasteur wanted to find out why alcohol, such as beer and wine, sometimes tastes sour or bad. He used a **microscope** to look at the beer and wine. A microscope is a tool that scientists use to see tiny things. He saw **bacteria** , very small living things, in the beer and wine.

Pasteur learned how to kill the bacteria. To do that, he made the beer or wine hot and then cold. He could also remove bacteria from milk by doing the same thing. Making a liquid (such as milk or beer) very hot and then making it cold is called **pasteurization** . Pasteurization is still used today to make things safe to drink.

Microbiology

Pasteur continued studying bacteria and other very small living things called **microorganisms** . Microorganisms can only be seen with a microscope. **Microbiology** is the study of microorganisms.

In 1877, Pasteur started to study anthrax. Anthrax is a **disease** that kills many cows and sheep. Diseases make a person or animal sick.

Vaccinations

Pasteur learned that he could use anthrax microorganisms to help the animals get better. A **vaccination** is a weak form of a bad microorganism. Pasteur gave the animals a vaccination with weak anthrax. It stopped the cows and sheep from getting sick.

Pasteur learned that he could also make vaccinations for people. He made vaccinations for other diseases, like rabies, cholera, tuberculosis, and smallpox.

Louis Pasteur died in 1895 at the age of 72.

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