

**Robert Hooke** One of the first people to observe cells was the English scientist and inventor Robert Hooke. Hooke built his own compound microscope, which was one of the best microscopes of his time. In 1663, Hooke used his microscope to observe the structure of a thin slice of cork. Cork, the bark of the cork oak tree, is made up of cells that are no longer alive. To Hooke, the empty spaces in the cork looked like tiny rectangular rooms. Therefore, Hooke called the empty spaces *cells*, which is a word meaning “small rooms.”

Hooke described his observations this way: “These pores, or cells, were not very deep, but consisted of a great many little boxes. . . .” What most amazed Hooke was how many cells the cork contained. He calculated that in a cubic inch there were about twelve hundred million cells—a number he described as “almost incredible.”

## • Tech & Design in History •

### The Microscope: Improvements Over Time

The microscope made the discovery of cells possible. Microscopes have improved in many ways over the last 400 years.

#### 1590 First Compound Microscope

Dutch eyeglass makers Zacharias and Hans Janssen made one of the first compound microscopes. It was a tube with a lens at each end.



#### 1660 Hooke's Compound Microscope

Robert Hooke's compound microscope included an oil lamp for lighting. A lens focuses light from the flame onto the specimen.

#### 1674 Leeuwenhoek's Simple Microscope

Although Anton van Leeuwenhoek's simple microscope used only one tiny lens, it could magnify a specimen up to 266 times.



1500

1600

1700

**Anton van Leeuwenhoek** At about the same time that Robert Hooke made his discovery, Anton van Leeuwenhoek (AY vun hook) also began to observe tiny objects with microscopes. Leeuwenhoek was a Dutch businessman who sold cloth. In his spare time, he built simple microscopes.

Leeuwenhoek looked at drops of lake water, scrapings from teeth and gums, and water from rain gutters. In many materials, Leeuwenhoek was surprised to find a variety of one-celled organisms. Leeuwenhoek noted that many of these tiny organisms moved. Some whirled, some hopped, and some shot through water like fast fish. He called these moving organisms *animalcules* (an ih MAL kyoolz), meaning “little animals.”

### Reading Checkpoint

Which type of microscope—simple or compound—did Leeuwenhoek make and use?



### 1866 Modern Compound Light Microscope

German scientists Ernst Abbe and Carl Zeiss made a compound light microscope with complex lenses that greatly improved the image. A mirror focuses light up through the specimen. Modern compound microscopes can effectively magnify a specimen up to 1,000 times.

### 1965 Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM)

An SEM sends electrons over the surface of a specimen, rather than through it. The result is a three-dimensional image of the specimen's surface. SEMs can magnify a specimen up to 150,000 times.



### 1933 Transmission Electron Microscope (TEM)

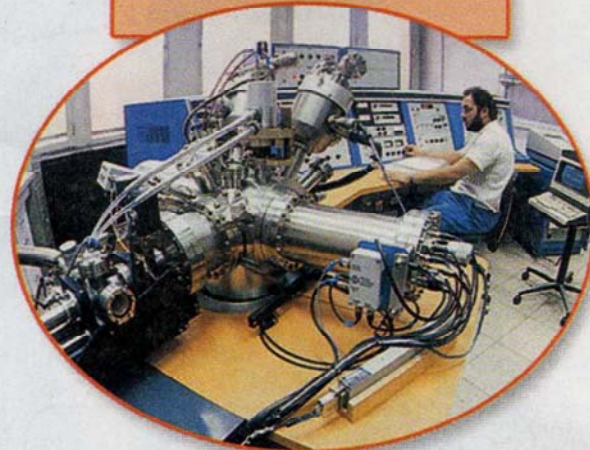
German physicist Ernst Ruska created the first electron microscope. TEMs send electrons through a very thinly sliced specimen. TEMs can magnify a specimen up to 500,000 times.

## Writing in Science

**Research and Write** Find out more about one of the microscopes. Then write an advertisement for it that might appear in a popular science magazine. Be creative. Emphasize the microscope's usefulness or describe the wonders that can be seen with it.

### 1981 Scanning Tunneling Microscope (STM)

An STM measures electrons that leak, or “tunnel,” from the surface of a specimen. STMs can magnify a specimen up to 1,000,000 times.



1800

1900

2000



**Animal Cells**

## Development of the Cell Theory

Leeuwenhoek's exciting discoveries caught the attention of other researchers. Like Hooke, Leeuwenhoek, and all other scientists, these other researchers were curious about the secrets around them, including things they couldn't normally see. Many other people began to use microscopes to discover secrets they could learn about cells.

**Schleiden, Schwann, and Virchow** Three German scientists made especially important contributions to our knowledge about cells. These scientists were Matthias Schleiden (SHLY dun), Theodor Schwann, and Rudolf Virchow (FUR). In 1838, Schleiden concluded that all plants are made of cells. He based this conclusion on his own research and on the research of others before him. The next year, Theodor Schwann concluded that all animals are also made up of cells. Thus, Schleiden and Schwann, all living things are made up of cells.

Schleiden and Schwann had made an important discovery about living things. However, they didn't explain where cells came from. Until their time, most people thought that all things could come from nonliving matter. In 1855, Virchow proposed that new cells are formed only from cells that already exist. "All cells come from cells," wrote Virchow.

**What the Cell Theory Says** Schleiden, Schwann, Virchow, and others helped develop the cell theory. The cell theory is a widely accepted explanation of the relationship between cells and living things. The cell theory states the following:

- All living things are composed of cells.
- Cells are the basic units of structure and function of living things.
- All cells are produced from other cells.

Go Online



For more links on cell theory,  
visit: [www.SciLinks.org](http://www.SciLinks.org)  
Web Code: scn-0311