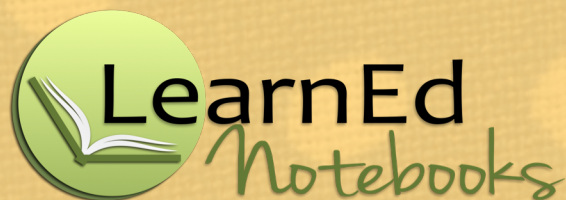


Happy Birthday,
Louis Pasteur



December 27, 1822

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Louis Pasteur's Lasting Impact

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Louis Pasteur was a French scientist who made many breakthroughs in science, especially in the field of medicine. He increased the understanding of the causes of diseases and contributed to preventing the spread of them. He helped to disprove spontaneous generation (the theory that life could come from nonliving things), his discoveries supported the germ theory, and he had a large role in the development of vaccines. Read the passage below and answer the following questions.

Changing the World with Vaccines:

Viruses are non-living particles that are capable of reproducing in a living host, often resulting in eventual death of the host. Rabies is a viral disease that you are probably familiar with. Rabies nearly always resulted in death until two French scientists, Louis Pasteur and Emile Roux, developed the first rabies vaccination in 1885. The first human subject to be treated with the vaccine was a nine-year-old boy who had been attacked by a rabid dog.

Pasteur and Roux extracted the virus from dead rabbits (who had died from rabies) and allowed the infected blood to dry for five to ten days. They then synthesized a vaccine that worked by exposing a human body to it just enough for the immune system to recognize the virus. If exposed to the full-blown version of the virus after receiving the vaccine, the immune system has antibodies to ward it off. Many more vaccines are available today using much more modern technology, but this breakthrough helped pave the way for the advancement of medicine.

1. Identify the problem: _____

2. What was the outcome? _____

3. How do you think these scientists used the scientific method to come up with the vaccine? _____

4. How has this impacted the modern field of healthcare? _____

5. What would the world be like right now if this discovery had never happened? _____

6. Research another contribution from Louis Pasteur and describe its impact on our modern world. _____

