

EVERY LIVING ORGANISM IS MADE UP OF CELLS

I. Observing cells: the microscope

A microscope is an optical instrument used to observe very small objects, such as cells and microorganisms, typically magnified several hundred times. These objects are usually mounted on slides, with or without a cover slip, and sometimes stained for better contrast.

https://youtu.be/c_BiLI2v6OE



Antony Van Leeuwenhoek (1632–1723)

Antony Van Leeuwenhoek was a Dutch tradesman who designed microscopes as a hobby. Even though they were simple, his lenses gave a remarkable magnification of about 300 times, with clearer and brighter images than former microscopes. He

then observed almost anything that could be placed under his lenses with a great curiosity. He was the first to observe bacteria that he described as “animalcules” when he looked at scrapings from his own teeth, or from old men’s teeth, who had never cleaned their teeth in their lives. He was also able to see protists, sperm cells and blood cells for the first time.



Activity n°1: Let's discover the microscope!

Activity n°2: Let's focus on the different parts of the microscope!