

# 1-2 How Scientists Work



Broth is boiled.



Broth is free of microorganisms for a year.



Curved neck is removed.



Broth is teeming with microorganisms.



## How do scientists test hypotheses?

A hypothesis should be tested by an experiment in which only one variable is changed at a time.

# Designing an Experiment

**The process of testing a hypothesis includes:**

- Asking a question
- Forming a hypothesis
- Setting up a controlled experiment
- Recording and analyzing results
- Drawing a conclusion

## Asking a Question

Many years ago, people wanted to know how living things came into existence. They asked:

*How do organisms come into being?*







## Forming a Hypothesis

One early hypothesis was **spontaneous generation**.

For example, most people thought that maggots spontaneously appeared on meat.

In 1668, **Redi** proposed a different hypothesis: *that maggots came from eggs that flies laid on meat.*

## Setting Up a Controlled Experiment

**manipulated variable**

**responding variable**

# Redi's Experiment

## Redi's Experiment on Spontaneous Generation

**OBSERVATIONS:** Flies land on meat that is left uncovered. Later, maggots appear on the meat.

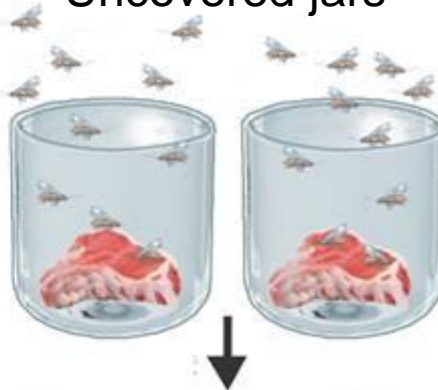
**HYPOTHESIS:** Flies produce maggots.

### PROCEDURE

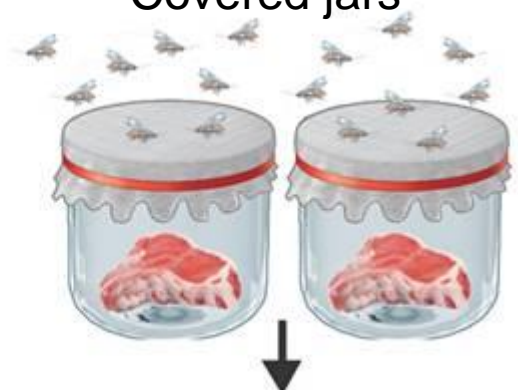
**Controlled Variables:**

jars, type of meat,  
Location, temperature,  
time

Uncovered jars



Covered jars





## Redi's Experiment

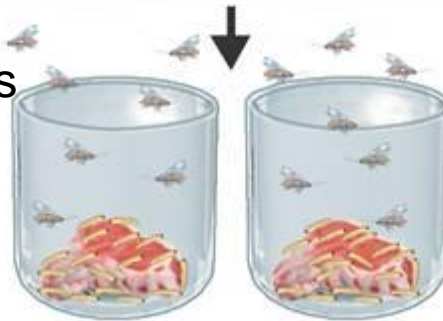
### Redi's Experiment on Spontaneous Generation

**Manipulated Variable:**

Gauze covering that keeps flies away from meat

**Responding Variable:**

whether maggots appear



Maggots appear.

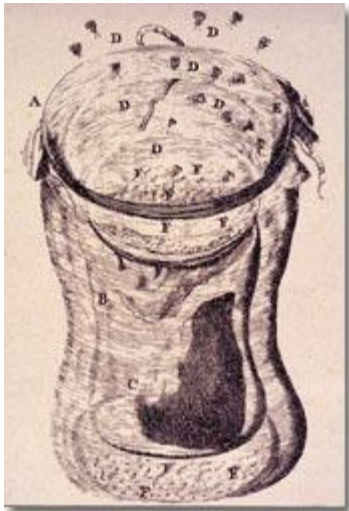
Several days pass.



No maggots appear.

## Drawing a Conclusion

Scientists use the data from an experiment to evaluate a hypothesis and draw a **valid conclusion**.



## Spallanzani's Test of Redi's Findings

Gravy is boiled.



Gravy is boiled.

## Spallanzani's Test of Redi's Findings

Flask is open.



Flask is sealed.



## Spallanzani's Test of Redi's Findings

**Gravy is teeming with microorganisms.**



**Gravy is free of microorganisms.**



## Pasteur's Test of Spontaneous Generation

- **Louis Pasteur** conclusively disproved the hypothesis of spontaneous generation.
- Pasteur showed that all living things come from other living things.





# Pasteur's Experiment



**Broth is boiled**



**Broth is free  
of microorganisms  
for a year.**



**Curved neck is  
removed.**

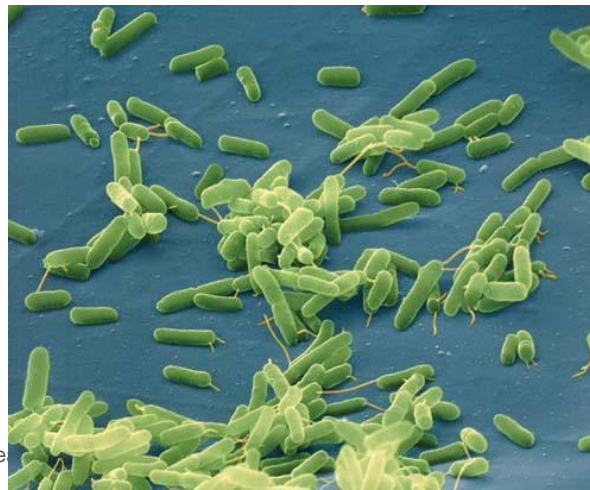


**Broth is  
teeming with  
microorganisms.**

## The Impact of Pasteur's Work

Pasteur saved the French wine industry, which was troubled by unexplained souring of wine.

**He began to uncover the nature of infectious diseases, showing that they were the result of microorganisms.**





**How does a scientific theory develop?**

## How a Theory Develops

As evidence from numerous investigations builds up, a hypothesis may become so well supported that scientists consider it a theory.



**In science, the word *theory* applies to a well-tested explanation that unifies a broad range of observations.**

# Major Theories in Biology

- **Germ Theory**
- **Evolutionary Theory**
- **Cell Theory**
- **Gene Theory**

## 1-2 Section QUIZ

Continue to:

**Section QUIZ**

- or -

Click to Launch:





## 1-2 Section QUIZ

**1** In an experiment, the variable that is deliberately changed is called the

- a. control.
- b. manipulated variable.
- c. responding variable.
- d. constant control

## 1-2 Section QUIZ

2

The mistaken belief that living organisms can arise from nonliving matter is called

- a. biogenesis.
- b. Pasteur's theory.
- c. spontaneous generation.
- d. Spallanzani's hypothesis.

## 1-2 Section QUIZ

**3** Which of the following was the manipulated variable in Redi's experiment?

- a. the kind of meat used
- b. the temperature the jars were kept at
- c. the gauze covering on some jars
- d. the kind of fly that visited the jars

## 1-2 Section QUIZ

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A well-tested explanation that unifies a broad range of observations is a

- a. hypothesis.
- b. variable.
- c. control.
- d. theory.

## 1-2 Section QUIZ

- 5** A scientific explanation does not become a theory until
- a. a majority of scientists agree with it.
  - b. it has been supported by evidence from numerous investigations and observations.
  - c. it is first proposed as an explanation.
  - d. it is published in a textbook.

**END OF SECTION**