

Pasteur's Apparatus

5007003

Summary

Pasteur was the first to figure out, you don't have to touch something dirty to get germs on you! Bacteria and viruses float around in the air ready to settle into a conducive environment like your lungs or nose.

Pasteur proved this when he managed to catch some microbes from the air in cotton. He cultured the cotton and grew the microbes as usual. Now it was time to see if stopping those airborne germs stopped life from starting in a flask.

Here's how Pasteur did it:

1. First he made flasks with bent, "swan", necks. This was to trap all the organisms in the air before they could get through
2. He filled the bottom of the flask with some broth microbes liked to grow in
3. Then he boiled it to kill anything already there
4. While it was still hot, he melted the glass at the tip of the neck to keep microbes from getting in

Nothing grew in the broth!

People believed in a 'vital ingredient' in air, so Pasteur broke off the tip of the glass neck to let air flow through. But the swan neck shape would catch anything heavier than gas. No microbes could float through.

Finally, Pasteur tipped the flask to expose the broth to the trapped microbes

Sure enough, it started to culture as usual!

Each product consists of:

- 1x 250ml Simax Erlenmeyer Flask
- 1x 1052169 Rubber Stopper
- 1x 6mm glass tube 400mm (Formed)