

Louis Pasteur (1822–1895) was a French biologist who worked on vaccinations to stop people getting ill. He discovered that beer, wine, and milk go sour because of bacteria growing in them. Pasteur worked out that this could be stopped by heating things briefly then cooling them down, a process now called pasteurization. These studies helped him to confirm the **germ theory of disease**, which states that diseases are usually caused by tiny living things called microorganisms (bacteria are an example of microorganisms). He was able to develop the first vaccines as a result.



The average human mouth has about 7 billion bacteria living in it. That's the same as the number of people living on the whole planet!