

Name _____ Date _____

Weekly Test Lesson 2

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

A Great Scientist

A lot of our knowledge about science today comes from Louis Pasteur. This famous scientist focused on tiny microbes. In Pasteur's day, most people did not even know microbes existed. They surely did not understand them. Many people did not believe Pasteur. They thought he was crazy. Still, Pasteur did not throw in the towel. He kept studying microbes. His work led to many important changes. One of these changes was how often we wash our hands. Another change involved how we keep our milk safe to drink. A third change was the invention of vaccines to prevent diseases.

In the 1900s, no one talked about germs. No one even knew what they were. There were no instructions about washing hands. In fact, most doctors didn't wash their hands or their medical instruments before going into surgery. Because people did not keep their hands clean, disease spread quickly. While Louis Pasteur was studying science, he discovered microbes. Pasteur learned that these microbes caused disease. Keeping things clean was not an immediate result of Pasteur's discovery. It took time. Still, Pasteur's discovery of microbes was the beginning of people seeing how disease spread. Eventually, doctors began to acknowledge their improper habits. They recognized the need to wash their hands and instruments. Other people started washing their hands often also. Keeping people and things clean helped prevent the spread of disease.

Along with the causes of diseases, Pasteur discovered that microbes were the reason liquids such as milk became sour. Pasteur also discovered that the bacteria could be removed from milk by boiling and then cooling the liquid. This process is called pasteurization. It is named after Louis Pasteur. Almost every container of milk in the grocery store goes through this process in order to be sold. Not only did this process prevent milk from becoming sour, but it also worked on many other liquids.

Name _____ Date _____

Reading

Studying microbes in liquids led Pasteur to study which microbes cause specific diseases. He used this knowledge to make vaccines. Vaccines are shots that prevent diseases. One of the vaccines he developed was a rabies vaccine. The rabies vaccine had only been tested on animals when Pasteur faced a difficult problem. A nine-year-old boy named Joseph Meister had gotten rabies. Joseph would not live if something wasn't done quickly. The vaccine worked in dogs. The problem was that the vaccine had never been tested on humans. Would it work on a young boy? Pasteur made the hard decision to give Joseph the vaccine. The treatment worked. Three months later, the boy was healthy. Pasteur also discovered vaccines for many other diseases. Many of these vaccines are still used today.

Washing hands, pasteurizing milk, and giving vaccines are just a few ways Pasteur made big improvements to science. His work has changed our lives today. Because of these contributions to science, schools, hospitals, buildings, and streets have been named after Pasteur. We owe a lot of our current health to Louis Pasteur.

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- 1 Read the sentences from the passage.

Still, Pasteur did not throw in the towel. He kept studying microbes.

What does the phrase throw in the towel mean as it is used in the text?

- Ⓐ give up
- Ⓑ get angry
- Ⓒ use a towel
- Ⓓ throw something

Name _____ Date _____

Reading

- 2 This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A

What is the author's perspective on the way many people thought about Louis Pasteur in his day?

- Ⓐ They thought Pasteur was a wonderful scientist.
- Ⓑ They thought Pasteur was making things up.
- Ⓒ They thought Pasteur deserved an award.
- Ⓓ They thought Pasteur was a genius.

Part B

Read the paragraph from the passage. Underline the **two** sentences that support the answer to part A.

A lot of our knowledge about science today comes from Louis Pasteur. This famous scientist focused on tiny microbes. In Pasteur's day, most people did not even know microbes existed. They surely did not understand them. Many people did not believe Pasteur. They thought he was crazy. Still, Pasteur did not throw in the towel. He kept studying microbes. His work led to many important changes. One of these changes was how often we wash our hands. Another change involved how we keep our milk safe to drink. A third change was the invention of vaccines to prevent diseases.

- 3 Why did doctors not wash their hands before surgery in Pasteur's time?
- Ⓐ The doctors were lazy.
 - Ⓑ The doctors did not know about germs.
 - Ⓒ The doctors did not want to waste time.
 - Ⓓ The doctors did not have running water.

Name _____ Date _____

Reading

- 4 Read the sentences from the passage. Underline the word that means “not correct.”

Keeping things clean was not an immediate result of Pasteur’s discovery. It took time. Still, Pasteur’s discovery of microbes was the beginning of people seeing how disease spread. Eventually, doctors began to acknowledge their improper habits. They recognized the need to wash their hands and instruments.

- 5 Today it is common to give rabies vaccines when someone has been bitten by an animal. Why was it such a difficult decision for Louis Pasteur to give the vaccine to a young boy? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

- 6 What is the author’s purpose for writing about Louis Pasteur?
- Ⓐ to let people know that Louis Pasteur is the best scientist that ever lived
 - Ⓑ to let people know how much Louis Pasteur’s work impacts our lives
 - Ⓒ to let people know the reason we have shots today
 - Ⓓ to explain how the spread of disease was stopped

Name _____ Date _____

Writing

- 7 Which sentence has a spelling error?
- (A) Friday is my favorite day of the week.
 - (B) Climbing up to a mountain peak is hard work.
 - (C) Some people have trouble remembering names.
 - (D) Breakfast is the most important meal of the day.
- 8 Which sentence is written incorrectly?
- (A) Are you coming.
 - (B) Stuart is going.
 - (C) Clarissa won!
 - (D) I love pizza!
- 9 Which sentence contains a punctuation error?
- (A) Do dogs like to play fetch.
 - (B) Dogs like to go on walks.
 - (C) The puppy is cute.
 - (D) Stay inside, Spot.
- 10 Jane is writing a story. Read the paragraph from her story. Underline the **two** sentences that contain punctuation errors.

Isabel was excited. Tonight was her first basketball game of the season. Had the team practiced enough? Isabel was sure they had. The players were ready to put their skills to the test. Would the team be able to play better than their opponent! Only time would tell? One thing was for sure, it would be a great game!