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about

Antoni van Leeuwenhoek

1632, Delft, the Netherlands

As a cloth merchant, Antoni van Leeuwenhoek became familiar with the use of magnifying glasses, which he used to check the quality of the fabric and the density of the weave.

Eventually he began to grind and polish his own lenses.

Around 1670 he developed the single microscope, which could magnify many times more than the compound microscopes of that time

VAN LEEUWENHOEK'S MICROSCOPE

The design of Van Leeuwenhoek's microscopes is relatively simple: a small glass lens riveted between two metal plates. The preparation sits on a pin that can move up and down and closer or further from the lens with screwsin order to focus

Where contemporaries' microscopes reached a magnification of around 30x, Van Leeuwenhoek made microscopes that were much more powerful. Most of Van Leeuwenhoek's microscopes magnified about 80x, but there were also outliers with a magnification factor of 250, which was phenomenal for the time





