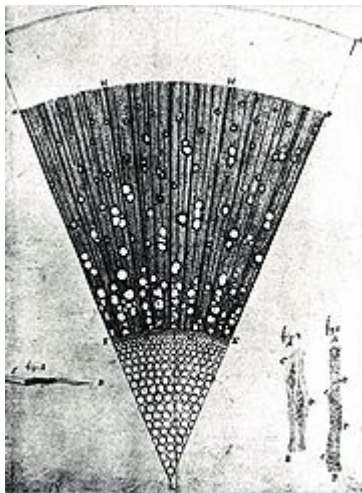




Born	24 October 1632 at Delft in Holland
Died	23 august 1723 (aged 90)
Residence	Delft in Holland
Nationality	Dutch
Occupation	Scientist, Tradesman

Fact File



Microscopic section drawn by van Leeuwenhoek

He was born the son of a basket-maker and at the age of 16 became an apprentice to a Scottish cloth merchant in Amsterdam. He is best known for his improvement of the microscope. Using his home-crafted microscope he was the first to observe and describe single cell organisms. The lenses could magnify up to 500 times but he kept his methods to himself. Although he had proved that there very tiny micro-organisms, he did not go on to experiment to demonstrate the effect they had on living things.