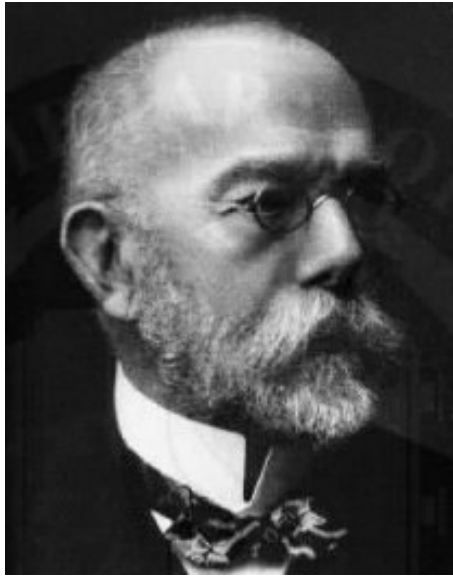


## Fact File: Robert Koch (1843 - 1910)



Robert Koch was born in Germany in 1843. He qualified as a doctor at the time when Pasteur's theory of Germs was becoming widely accepted. Between 1875 - 1878 , he carefully studied the disease anthrax, which kills both animals and humans.

He won an international reputation for his very careful experimenting to prove beyond doubt which bacteria caused particular diseases. He became famous for isolating the bacteria that caused cholera, anthrax and tuberculosis (the cause of 1 in 7 deaths during the nineteenth century)

He accused Pasteur of sloppy methods when experimenting. He was determined to prove beyond doubt the cause of particular diseases. In this endeavour, he discovered that certain dyes could seek out particular bacteria.

### **Experimental Method for identifying the anthrax bacteria**

- **Take the organs from a sheep that has died of anthrax. Find the bacterium. Extract it, grow it, study it and then inject a mouse with the bacterium. After a time the mouse developed anthrax.**
- **Take some blood from the dead mouse. Isolate the anthrax bacteria. Grow it and study it. Then inject the bacteria into a fresh mouse and it develops anthrax.**
- **Repeat the experiment twenty times or more.**