

The Cultivation of Microorganisms

In order to study microorganisms, scientists need to be able to cultivate them in a suitable environment, so that they can be properly examined through the use of microscopes. The suitable environment is called a **medium**, a mixture (which can be solid or liquid, basically) of all the nutrients required for the microorganism to grow. In this case, to grow doesn't exactly mean the enlargement of the microorganism's body. Rather, **growth** means that the quantity of microorganisms present in the medium gets higher, with more and more cells being created, as a result of cell division. Millions, or billions, of cells together form a **colony**, and such a quantity of microbial cells being cultivated in a medium forms what is called a **culture**.



Microbial Culture