Key to the Timeline of the Germ Theory of Disease

1650

1665 Hooke
Drawings of cells (from cork plant) first published.

1673 Leeuwenhoek
Microbes first described.

1700

1838 Schleiden
All plants are made up of cells.

1839 Schwann
All animals are made up of cells.

1750

1845 Siebold
Many microbes are made up of a single cell.

1840s Semmelweiss
Hand washing reduces spread of childbed fever among patients.

1800

1850s Virchow
Cells reproduce to create new cells.

1860 Nightingale
Cleanliness recognized as important in patient care.

1850

1865 Pasteur
Microbes (also known as germs) can cause infectious disease. Infectious disease can be spread by the spread of microbes.

1867 Lister
Chemicals can be used to reduce spread of microbes.

1900

1876 Koch
Specific microbes cause specific diseases.

1890 Halsted
Gloves used during surgery can prevent the spread of microbes.

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