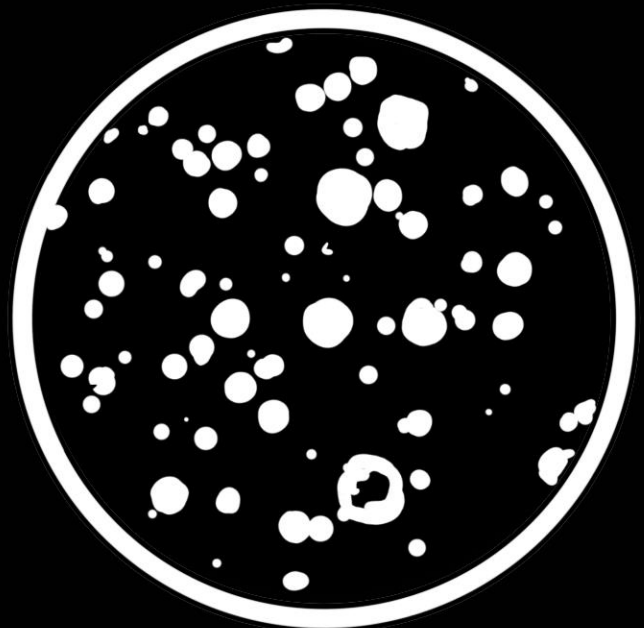
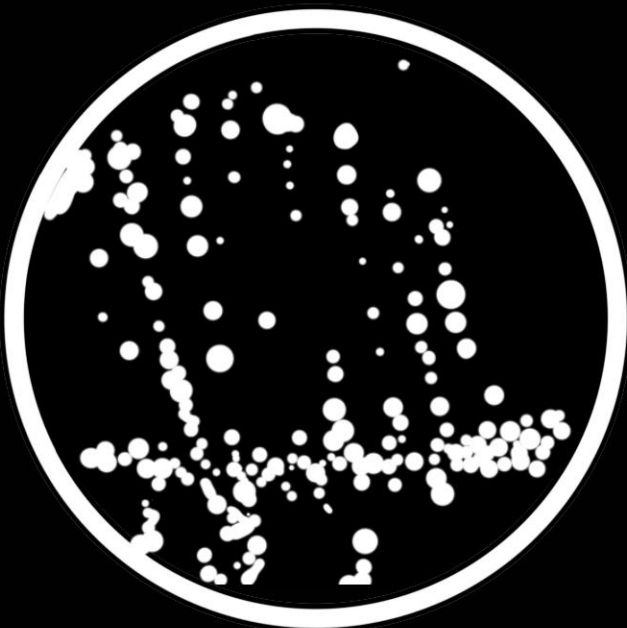
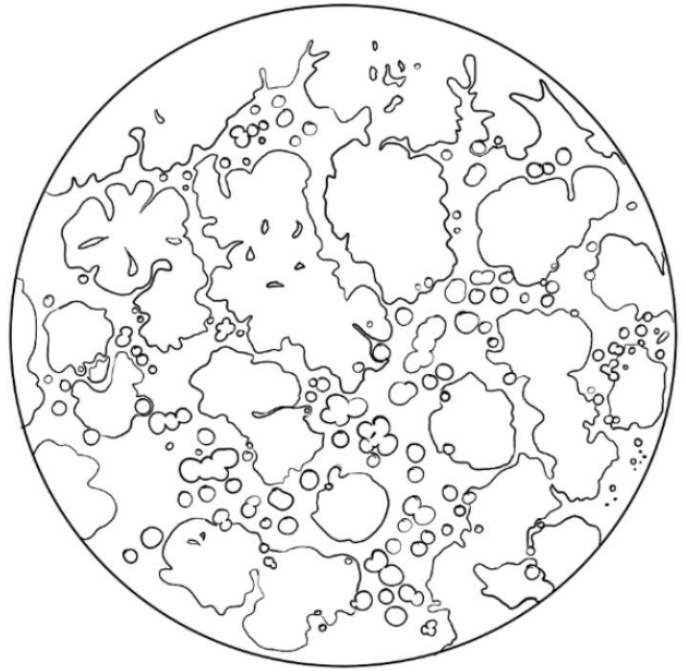
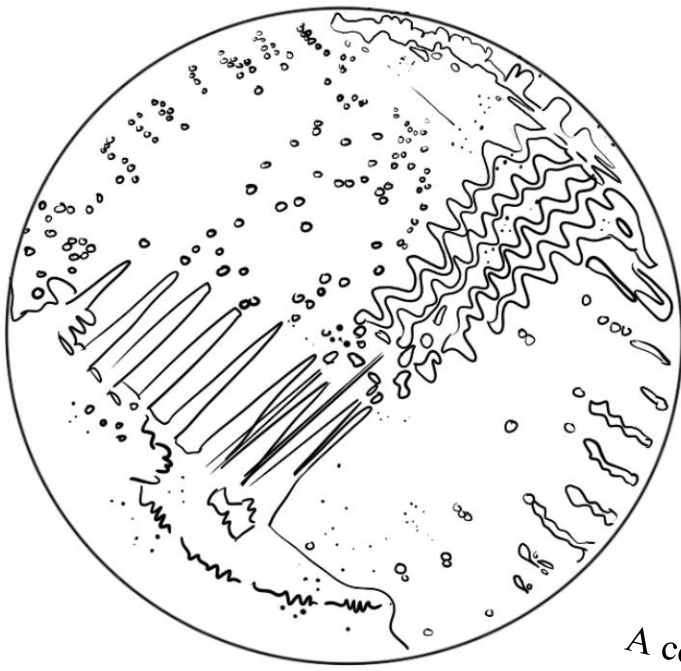
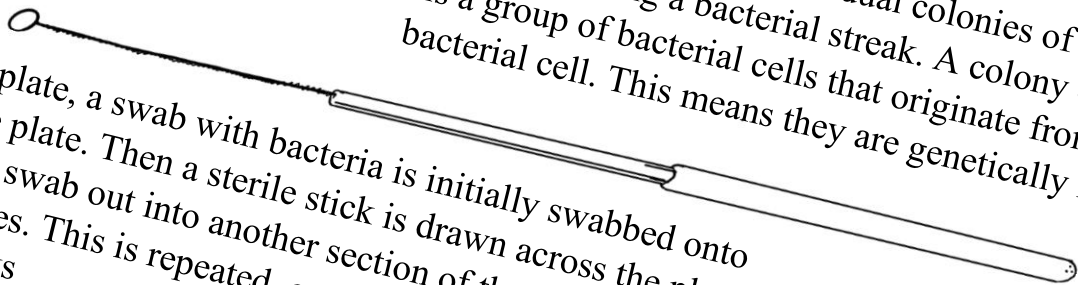


Nutrient agar media is commonly used in the laboratory to grow bacteria. There are many different types of agar that have different ingredients that help to grow specific species of bacteria. Agar is derived from red algae and after preparation it becomes a solid. Agar is typically put into a petri dish, which is a round glass or plastic container.

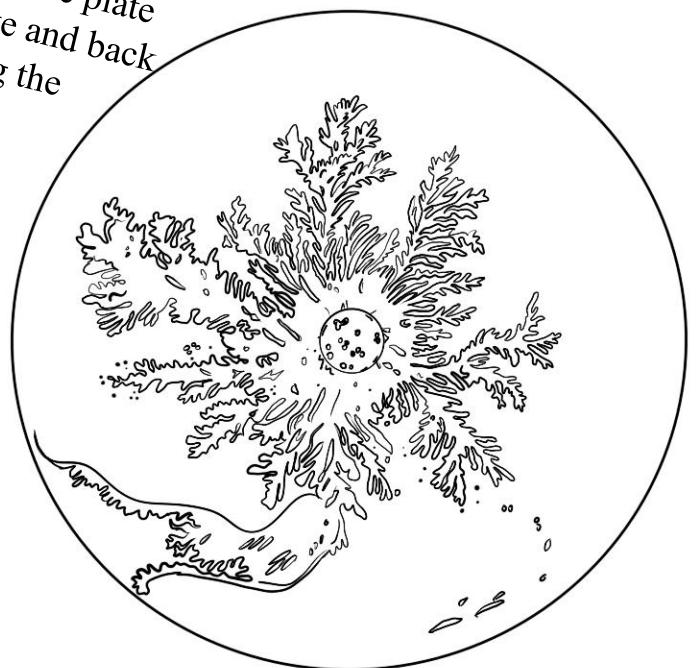
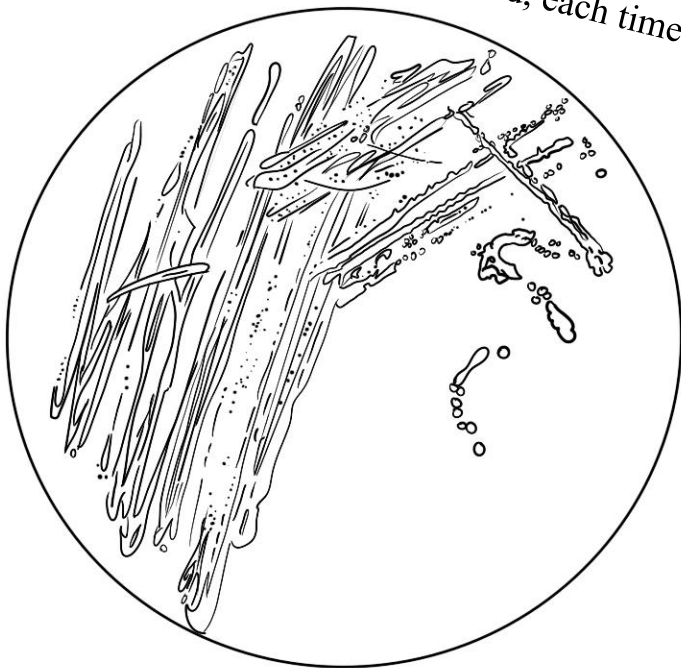




A common way to isolate individual colonies of bacteria on petri dishes is using a bacterial streak. A colony of bacteria is a group of bacterial cells that originate from a single bacterial cell. This means they are genetically identical.



To streak the plate, a swab with bacteria is initially swabbed onto one side of the plate. Then a sterile stick is drawn across the plate from the initial swab out into another section of the plate and back again many times. This is repeated, each time decreasing the number of streaks



This process gives you individual colonies growing in one region of the agar.