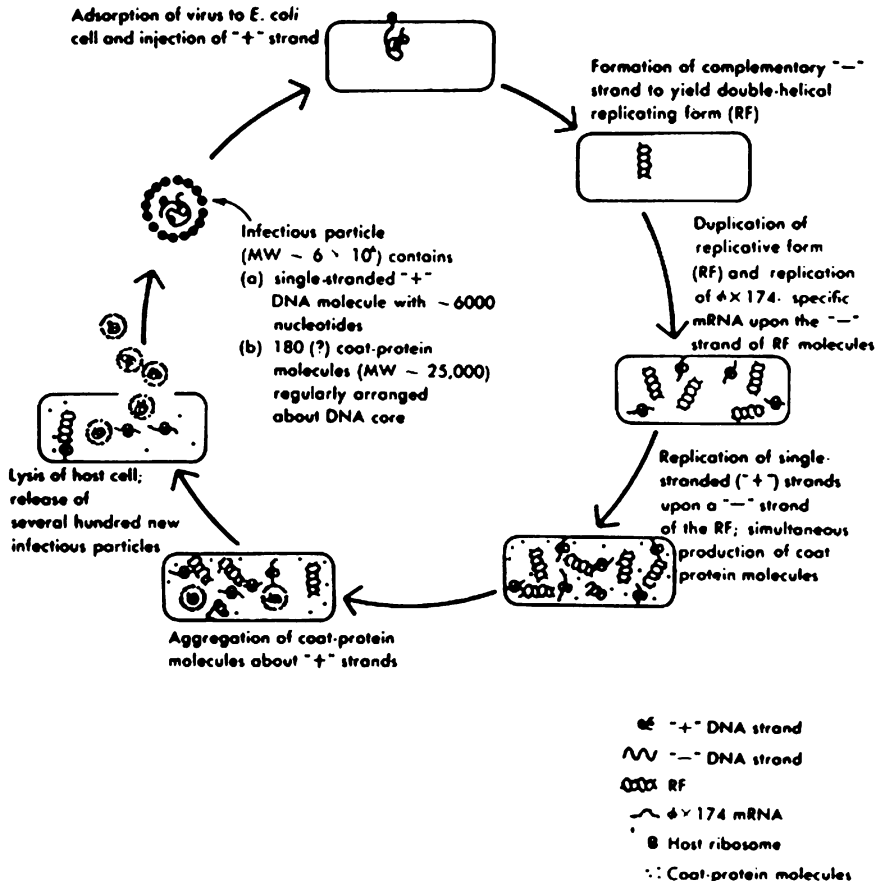


## LIFE CYCLE OF THE THETA-X-174 VIRUS

Talk about complicated! Here is one of the simplest living creatures in existence, and yet see how very complex it is! If you cannot figure it out, that's all right; neither can the virus. It isn't smart enough. Yet it always carries out this complicated dividing, combining, and recombining as its life cycle.



Life cycle of the  $\phi$ X174 virus. This virus employs a circular DNA. The diagram shows only a small portion of the (+), (-), and (RF) circles. MW, relative weight of a single particle or molecule, the hydrogen atom being approximately one. (from Watson)