irreducible n-manifold

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An http://planetmath.org/TopologicalManifold$n$-manifold M is called *irreducible* if for each embedding of a standard $(n-1)$-sphere S^{n-1} in M, there is an embedding of a http://planetmath.org/StandardNBallstandard n-ball D^n in M such that the image of the boundary ∂D^n coincides with the image of S^{n-1}.

In case of dimension three it can be proved that each irreducible 3-manifold is also a http://planetmath.org/Prime3Manifoldprime 3-manifold.