

Name _____

Date _____

Who discovered that the sun was the center of the solar system?

Galileo Galilei was born in Pisa, Italy. At the age of ten, he was admitted into a monastery. There he began to study medicine. Galileo soon found that he was more interested in mathematics.

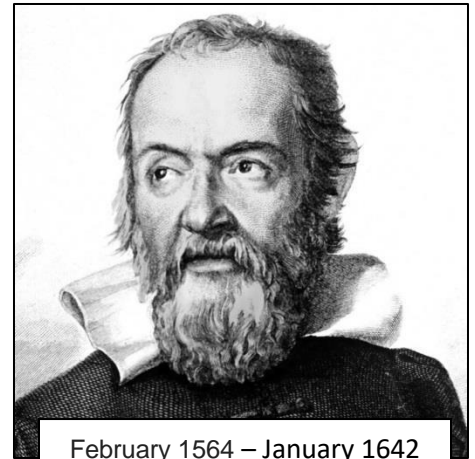
At only 25 years old, he was teaching mathematics at two universities. Galileo then built a telescope and spent many long nights looking at the planets and stars, studying their movements.

Galileo concluded that the sun is the center of the planetary system, and the planets revolve around it. This was contrary to the beliefs of the time. His conclusions caused the Catholic Church to condemn him. Today, of course, we know that he was correct in his views of the solar system.

Galileo also showed that the "Law of Aristotle," which claimed that heavier objects fall faster than lighter ones, was false. To prove it, he climbed 54 meters to the top of the tower of Pisa and threw balls of different sizes and weights off the tower. All the balls fell at the same speed. Aristotle was wrong in his hypothesis.

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS.

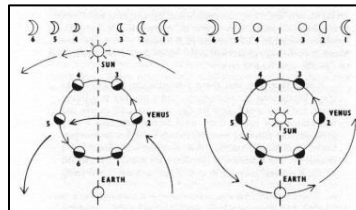
1. Where was Galileo Galilei born?
 - a. Florence
 - b. Milan
 - c. Pisa
 - d. None of the above



2. What did Galileo build to observe the sky and the stars?
 - a. a telephone
 - b. a telescope
 - c. a lightbulb
 - d. a mirror



3. Galileo discovered that the center of the solar system was _____.
 - a. the sun
 - b. the earth
 - c. Jupiter
 - d. Venus



4. Galileo demonstrated that Aristotle's Law, stating that heavier objects fall faster than lighter ones, was _____.
 - a. false
 - b. true

