



GALILEO GALILEI

Galileo is often called the **founder** of modern science. He made many **discoveries** in astronomy and physics, and he built **telescopes** to study space.

Galileo Galilei was born in Pisa, Italy in 1564. His father sent him to the university to study medicine, but young Galileo was more interested in science and mathematics.

Galileo made one of his greatest **discoveries** as he sat in a cathedral of Pisa. As he watched a **chandelier swing** back and forth, he **noticed** that longer and shorter swings took the same time. This **discovery** became known as the **law of the pendulum**.

These and other important discoveries made him so well-known that Galileo became a professor at the University of Pisa.

Galileo often **questioned** scientific facts of his **age**. For a long time, people thought that heavier objects fall to Earth faster than lighter ones. By dropping objects of the same **size** but different **weights** from the **Leaning Tower** of Pisa Galileo showed that this wasn't true.

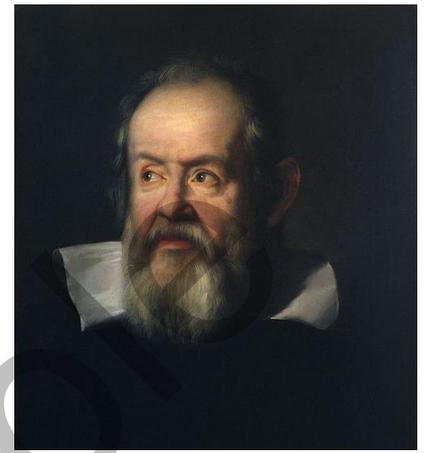
In 1609 Galileo **constructed** his first **telescope**. He used it to **observe** the stars and the planets. He saw things that nobody had ever seen before. Galileo discovered that the moon's **surface** was not **smooth** and flat, like everyone thought, but had a **rough** surface and was full of craters.

In January 1610 Galileo discovered 4 moons **revolving** around Jupiter. They were named after him, the Galilean moons. These observations **proved** that not the Earth was the centre of the **solar system**, but the sun. It was a **discovery** that Copernicus had made 60 years earlier.

The Roman Catholic Church did not always like what Galileo taught. It still believed that the Earth was the centre of the universe and everything **revolved** around it. The church ordered him not to teach such ideas anymore.

In 1633 Galileo was brought before the **Inquisition**, the Church's court. It **sentenced** him to life in **prison** because of his teachings. Galileo was put under house arrest because he was old and not so healthy anymore. He spent the last years of his life in Florence, where he continued to work on his theories and even **published a final** book. He became blind and died in 1642.

In 1992 Pope John Paul II published a document that said the Church made a mistake by **condemning** Galileo.



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