

Galileo

By Ben Puckett of Midland High School

Two balls of the same size are dropped from the Leaning Tower of Pisa and are observed landing at the same time. This is just one of the many experiments created by Galileo Galilei, a 16th century scientific revolutionary. In his career of creating mind bending theories, experiments and outrageous but accurate claims, he made several leaps in technological and observational leaps in astronomy.

The theory that he is most known for is his Copernican model of the universe where the sun is the center and Earth is in its orbit. At the time of the 16th century it was ludicrous to think anything besides the Earth being the center of everything which was what the Catholic Church believed. When Galileo suggested this theory and others in the book Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems he was put under house arrest and the book was banned by the church. (Smithsonian Magazine)

In 1609 the inventor and scientist heard of the invention of the spy glass in Holland. He used the spy glass to create the first ever telescope. This telescope is as powerful as a modern day field glass. That same year, in December, he created a telescope twenty times stronger. With this, he discovered craters on the moon, stars in the Milky Way and the four largest satellites of Jupiter. (ThinkQuest Library)

How was Galileo Galilei so influential in the study of astronomy? After the obvious examples, such as the invention of the telescope and discoveries of certain details of objects in our galaxy, he pushed the limits of the minds of his time. When everyone believed the explanation given by the Catholic Church, he thought for himself. He found the truth and became the catalyst for the study of astronomy.

Works Cited

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