

Name: _____

Date: _____

Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Galileo Galilei

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

Galileo Galilei was born in Pisa, Italy on February 15, 1564. His father, Vencenzio, was a musician and a mathematician. He was Galileo's teacher until he was ten years old. At that time the family moved to Florence.

He attended a monastery where he studied Latin, Greek, logic and religion. In 1583, Galileo entered the University of Pisa to study medicine. He soon became fascinated with many subjects, particularly mathematics and physics.

In 1604, Galileo published 'The Operations of the Geometrical and Military Compass,' revealing his skills with experiments and technological applications. He also constructed a hydrostatic balance for measuring small objects. That same year, Galileo refined his theories on motion and falling objects, and developed the universal law of acceleration. Galileo is called the Father of Modern Science.

He discovered four bright "stars" revolving around Jupiter and concluded they must be planets near Jupiter. Shortly after his discovery he was appointed Chief Mathematician of the University of Pisa. In July 1609, Galileo learned about a simple telescope built by Dutch, and he soon developed one of his own. He found Venus had phases like the moon, proving it rotated around the sun. In 1614, Galileo was accused of heresy for his support of the Copernican theory that the sun was at the centre of the solar system. In 1616, he was forbidden from teaching these theories. In 1632, he was again condemned after his book 'Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems' was published. Galileo was summoned to appear before the Inquisition in Rome. He was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment, later reduced to house arrest at his villa in Arcetri. During his lifetime Galileo had three children; two girls and a boy. His girls were Virginia and Livia who were both raised in convents and his son, Vencenzio, was named after Galileo's father. Galileo died on January 8, 1642 in Arcetri near Florence.



Answer the question.

1. What is main idea of the whole passage?
2. Underline the most important information in each paragraph.
3. Briefly summarize Galileo Galilei's work.