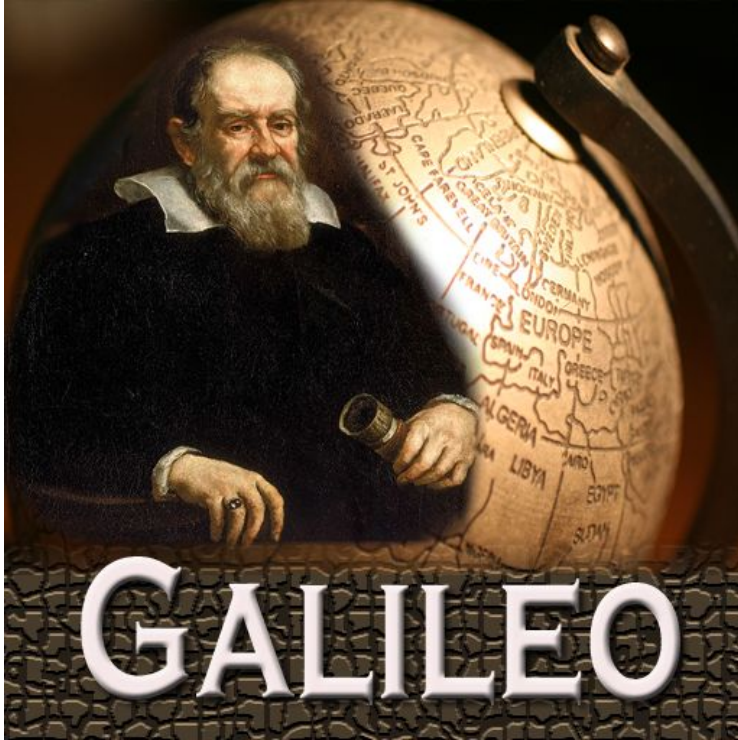


Galileo Galilei



Galileo was a influential Italian astronomer, physicist and philosopher.

Galileo Galilei was the son of a musician. He began to study medicine at the University of Pisa but changed to philosophy and mathematics. In 1589, he became professor of mathematics at Pisa. In 1592, he moved to become mathematics professor at the University of Padua, a position he held until 1610. During this time he worked on a variety of experiments, including the speed at which different objects fall, mechanics and pendulums. He made many astronomical discoveries: mountains and valleys on the surface of the moon, sunspots, the four largest moons of the planet Jupiter and the phases of the planet. His theory about the copernican system was revolutionary at that time when most people believed the Earth was in this central position. Galileo was summoned to appear before the Inquisition in Rome. He was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment, later reduced to permanent house arrest at his villa in Arcetri. His work on astronomy made him famous and he was appointed court mathematician in Florence.

Questions:

1. When and where was Galilei born? (1p)
2. Why is he important for humanity? (1p)
3. Why is he accused of heresy? (1p)
4. When and where did he die? (1p)

send your answers to Maria Delli Bovi, Martina Lavorgna or Mariarosaria Capozzolo