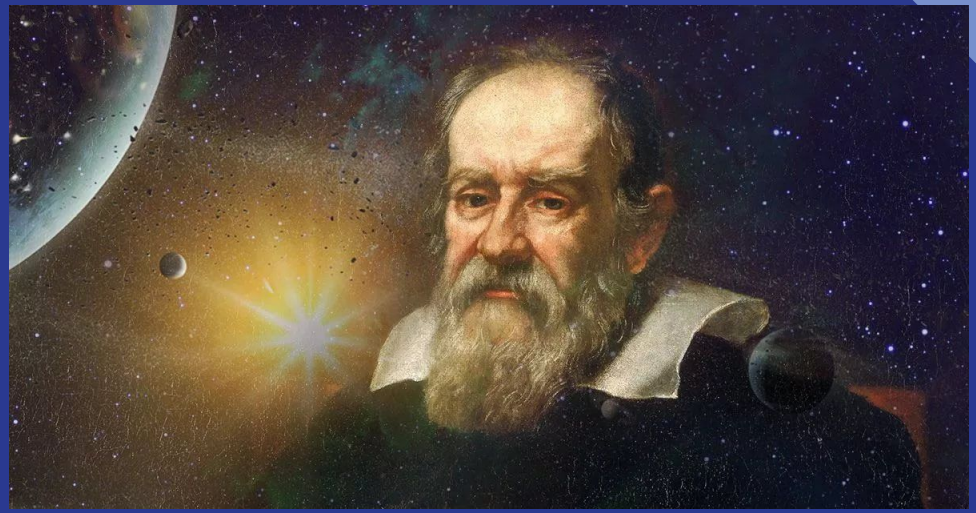
Galileo Galilei

Astronomer



Quick Facts

Birthday: February 15, 1564
Nationality: Italian
Died: 77 age ,January 8, 1642
Also Known As: Galileo Di Vincenzo Bonaulti De Galile
Born In: Pisa, Italy
Famous As: Astronomer
Father: Vincenzo Galilei
Mother: Giulia Ammannati
Siblings: Benedetto Galilei, Giulia Galilei, Livia Galilei, Michelagnolo, Virginia Galile
Children: Livia, Maria Celeste, Vincenzo Gamba
Partner: Marina Gamba
Place Of Death: Arcetri
City: Pisa, Italy
Discoveries/Inventions: Ganymede, Europa, Callisto, Io, Rings Of Saturn

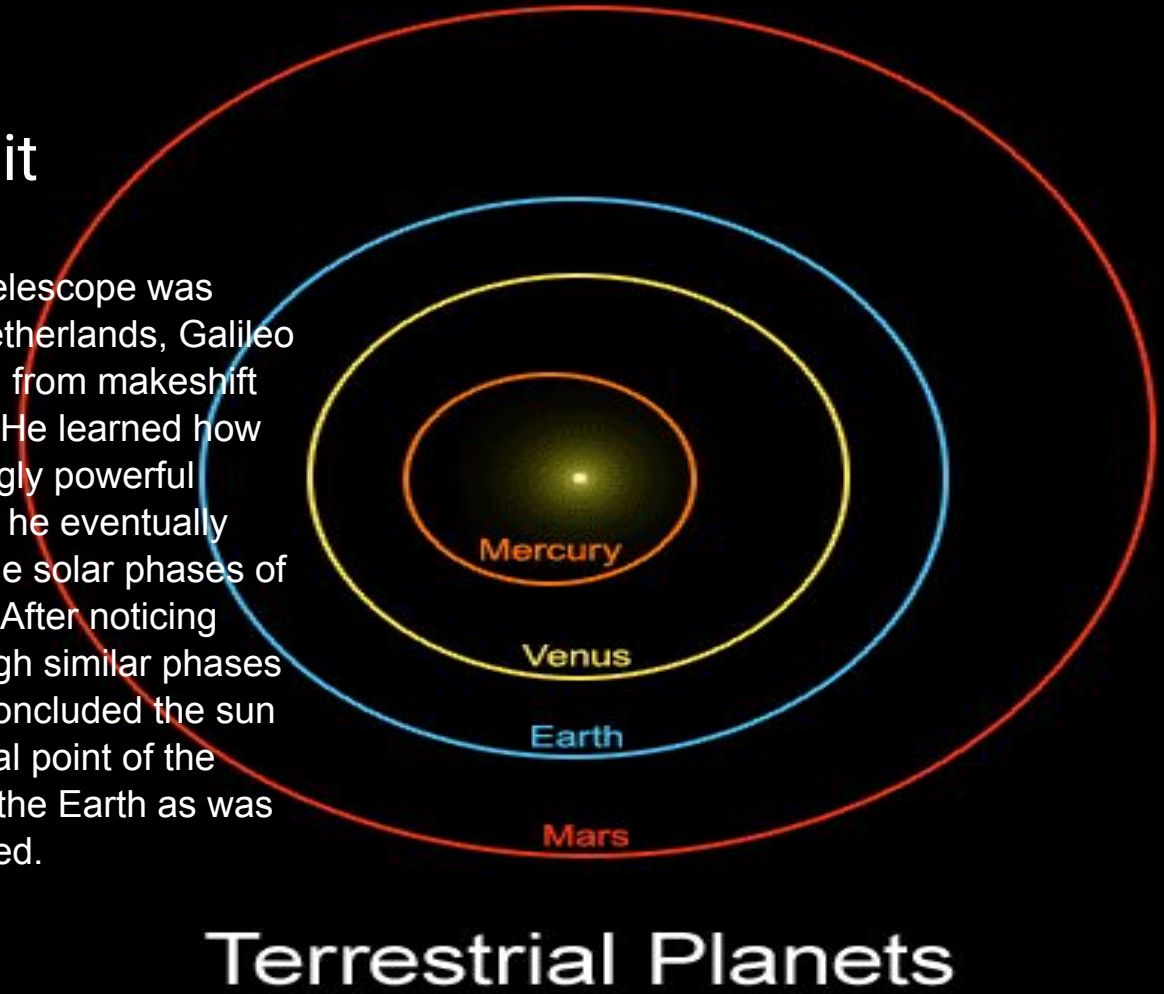
Childhood & Early Life

Galileo Galilei was born (Galileo di Vincenzo Bonaulti de Galilei) on 15 February 1564, in Pisa, Duchy of Florence, to Vincenzo Galilei and Giulia Ammannati. His father was a lutenist, composer, and music theorist by profession. At an early age, Galileo learned the technicalities involved in lute and became an accomplished lutenist.

Discoveries

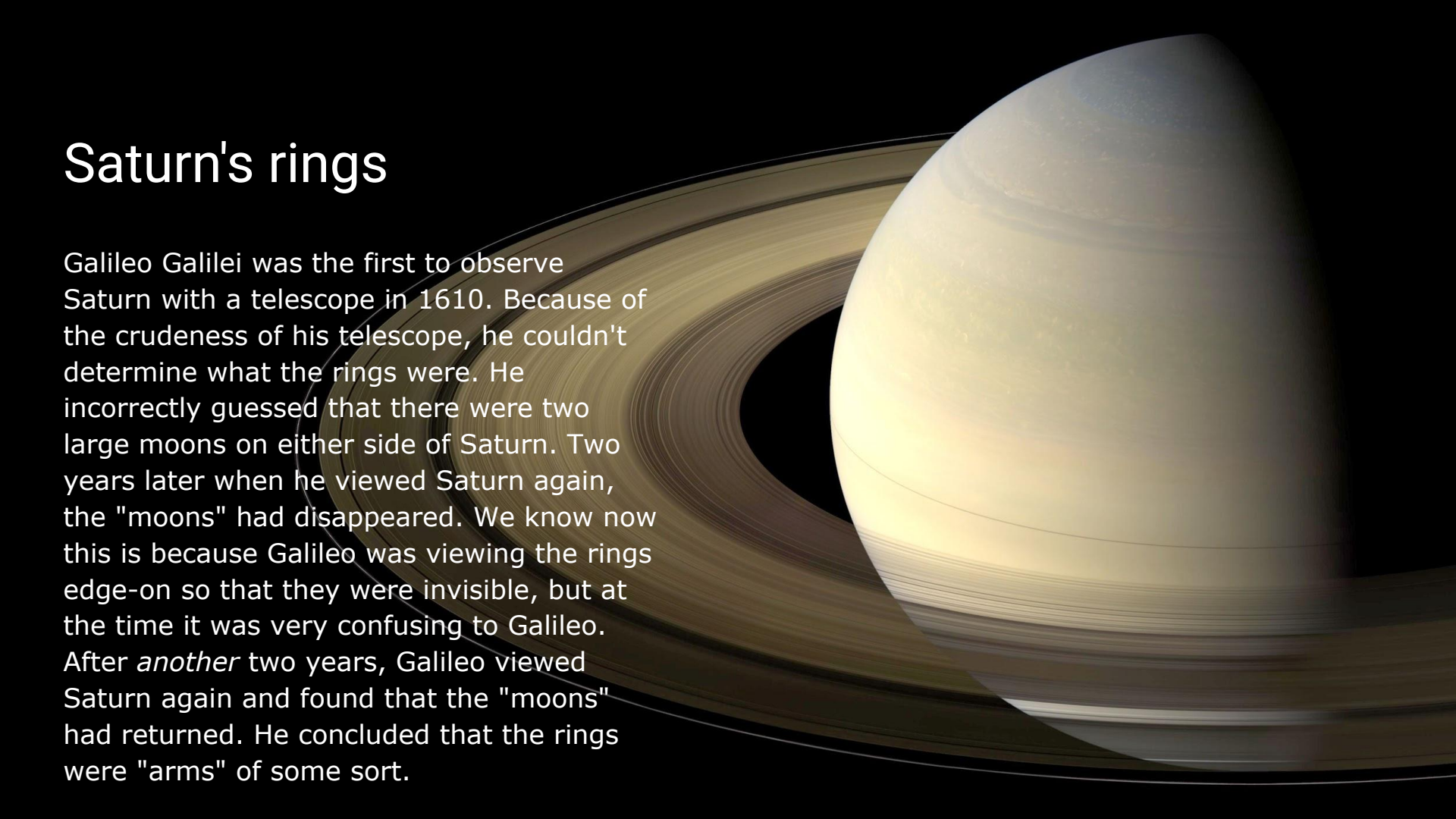
Earth's orbit

Shortly after the telescope was invented in the Netherlands, Galileo fashioned his own from makeshift spectacle lenses. He learned how to make increasingly powerful telescopes, which he eventually used to monitor the solar phases of the planet Venus. After noticing Venus went through similar phases to the moon, he concluded the sun must be the central point of the solar system, not the Earth as was previously assumed.



Saturn's rings

Galileo Galilei was the first to observe Saturn with a telescope in 1610. Because of the crudeness of his telescope, he couldn't determine what the rings were. He incorrectly guessed that there were two large moons on either side of Saturn. Two years later when he viewed Saturn again, the "moons" had disappeared. We know now this is because Galileo was viewing the rings edge-on so that they were invisible, but at the time it was very confusing to Galileo. After *another* two years, Galileo viewed Saturn again and found that the "moons" had returned. He concluded that the rings were "arms" of some sort.



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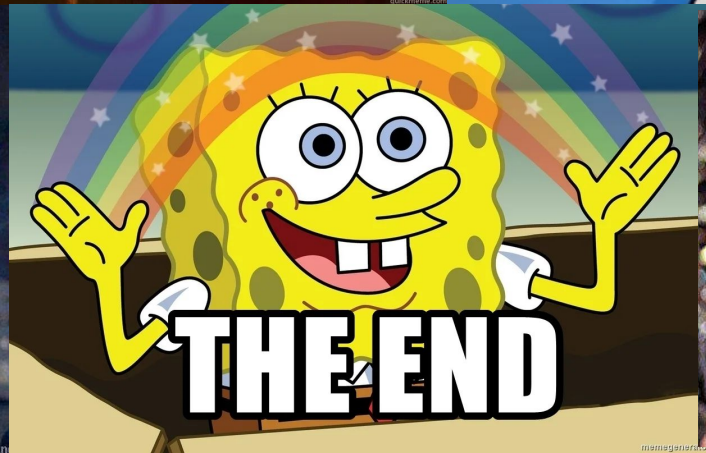
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