

Galileo Galilei

Galileo Galilei is the father of the scientific method and modern science.

He was born in Pisa in 1564. He studied a lot of physical phenomena and formulated laws that are valid nowadays, for example the movement and the fall of a body. He was an excellent inventor: he invented a lot of scientific instruments and every type of tools.

In 1609 he produced a telescope with Dutch optical instruments and lenses made in Venice. Through the telescope he observed the position of the sun, of the moon and of some planets.

Then he created the “occhialino” an instrument later called microscope.

With his observations through the telescope he supported the Copernican theory: Earth is not at the centre of Universe, like the Ptolemaic theory affirmed, but the Sun is at the centre and Earth with other planets of the Solar System orbiting around it.

In the last years of his life he wrote about these theories in “Dialogo sopra i due massimi sistemi del mondo, tolemaico e copernicano”. The Holy Inquisition Court didn't like his work because it was against the Bible and Galileo was condemned for heresy.

He died in Florence in 1642 and is buried in the Basilica of Santa Croce with other important characters of Italian history.