

- 1. Copernicus probably hit upon his main idea sometime between 1508 and 1514.
- 2. According to legend, Copernicus received a copy as he was dying, on May 24, 1543.
- 3. The historic book that contains the final version of his theory, *De Revolutionibus Orbium Coelestium Libri VI* ("Six Books Concerning the Revolutions of the Heavenly Orbs"), did not appear in print until 1543, the year of his death.
- 4. For years, however, he delayed publication of his controversial work, which contradicted all the authorities of the time.
- 5. The book opened the way to a truly scientific approach to astronomy. It had a profound influence on later thinkers of the scientific revolution, including such major figures as Galileo, Johannes Kepler, and Isaac Newton.



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