

Reading

9 Galileo Galilei – the father of modern science

1  Read about Galileo. Correct the sentences about him.

1 Galileo was born in Padua.

Galileo was born in Pisa.

2 His father was a scientist.

3 He was a professor at the University of Pisa.

4 He was the father of six children.

5 His theory was that the sun went around the earth.

6 He spent his last years in prison.

7 He was completely deaf when he died.

2 Read the text again. Answer the questions.

1 What nationality was Galileo?

2 He was a physicist and a mathematician. What else was he?

3 When was he born?

4 Where was he a student?

5 What was his job at the University of Padua?

6 What could he see with his telescope?

7 Why were his ideas dangerous?

8 Why was he not sent to prison?

Galileo Galilei – the father of modern science



Galileo Galilei was an Italian physicist, mathematician, astronomer, and philosopher. He was an excellent scientist.

HIS EARLY YEARS

Galileo was born in 1564 in Pisa, Italy. He was the first of six children of Vincenzo Galilei and Giulia Ammannati. His father was a famous musician.

Galileo's early education was in a monastery. From there, in 1581, he went to the University of Pisa, where he was a student of medicine and mathematics. Then from 1592 to 1610 he went to the University of Padua. He wasn't a student at this university – he was a professor of mathematics and astronomy.

Galileo was the father of three children – two daughters and a son.

HIS SCIENTIFIC LIFE

Galileo made excellent telescopes. With them he could see moons going around the planet Jupiter and the planet Venus going around the sun. At the time, there was the belief that the earth was the center of the universe and the sun went around the earth. However, by 1610, Galileo's theory was that the earth was not the center of our universe. Galileo said that the sun was the center and the earth moved around it.

HIS LAST YEARS

Some leaders weren't happy with Galileo's theories. His ideas were dangerous because they were different and new. Finally, in 1634, there was a trial. Galileo was 70 and not in good health so he wasn't sent to prison, but he couldn't leave his house in Florence. It was here that he died in 1642. He was 78 years old and completely blind.

