

Galileo and his telescope



In Unit 4 you learned about the Wright Brothers, Igor Sikorsky and Alessandro Volta.

Today I prepared a worksheet for another important inventor of the time.

Enjoy watching the short video and reading more interesting facts about Galileo. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NMM8vx9vDiE>

Read the text and answer the questions:

Galileo Galilei was born in the year 1564. He was born in the town of Pisa, in what is now Italy. When he was 20 years old, he was studying in Pisa. His father wanted him to be a doctor. Galileo was bored with school. The only subject he really liked was math. Because he was doing well in math, the mathematician in the court offered to tutor him privately. He said he could become a qualified mathematician. Galileo's father was disappointed, but he agreed. Because he needed to earn money, Galileo began experimenting with different things. He tried to come up with an invention he could sell for money. He had some success with one invention. It was like a compass that could be used to measure land. He experimented with pendulums, thermometers, and magnets. He heard that a Dutch inventor had invented something called a spyglass. The inventor was trying to keep it a secret. Galileo decided to work on one of his own. Within 24 hours, he had invented a telescope. It could magnify things to make them appear ten times larger than real life. One night, he pointed his telescope toward the sky. He made his first of many space observations. Everyone thought the moon was smooth.

Galileo saw that it wasn't. The moon was covered in bumps and craters. As technology has improved, Galileo and many others have made improvements on the telescope. Today, the telescope is a wonderful device that lets us see objects far, far away.

- 1) Galileo's father was disappointed when he became a mathematician. What did he want him to be instead?
- 2) Why did Galileo become an inventor?
- 3) Where did Galileo get the idea for his telescope?
- 4) What did Galileo discover about the moon?
- 5) How do you think Galileo's inventions made a difference to the world?

Vocabulary

Court- βασιλική αυλή -παλάτι

Qualified – someone who has qualifications - προσόντα

Earn money – to make money

Pendulums- το εκκρεμές- The pendulum of my grandfather's clock swings back and forth.

Observations- to observe, notice - παρατήρηση

Bumps and craters-εξογκώματα –τρύπα/άνοιγμα –the moon has bumps and craters.

