

Heliocentric and Geocentric Models

The heliocentric and geocentric models fall under the heading of cosmology. Cosmology is the study of the universe and humanity's place in the universe.

The geocentric model of the universe holds that earth is the center of the universe and other objects orbit around it. This belief system was popular in ancient Greece. The majority of ancient philosophers (like Aristotle and Ptolemy) thought that the sun, moon, stars, and planets revolved around Earth.

This geocentric model held that stars were fixed in the sky and would rise and set at a second period.

The very first model (somewhere between 300 BC and 100 BC) identified the planets and identified the thought for

Even though Copernicus' heliocentric model. The and the other *Commentary* heliocentric

Galileo Galilei with improving the telescope, and his improvements allowed for more accurate astronomical observation. He supported Copernicus' heliocentric theory. Galileo's support of the heliocentric model was controversial during the time in which he lived. In fact, the Catholic Church prohibited supporting a heliocentric model of the universe, because they said it was not empirically proven and contradicted scripture. Galileo was forced to recant heliocentrism and spent his last years of life under house arrest by order of the Roman Inquisition.

After Galileo, heliocentrism started to become more widespread. Scientists like Kepler helped to further advance the theory. The heliocentric model eventually completely replaced the geocentric model.

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Name _____

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Heliocentric and Geocentric Models (Cont'd)

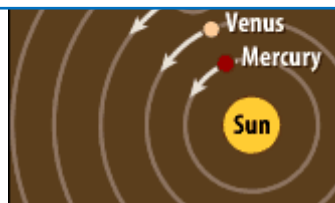
The geocentric model would have been depicted similar to this:



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The heliocentric model is now accepted as the correct model of our universe.

Heliocentric and Geocentric Models Questions

Multiple Choice:

1. The study of the theory of the universe and humanity's place in the universe is known as:
 - a. heliocentrism
 - b. astronomy
 - c. geocentrism
 - d. cosmology
2. This man was credited with improving the telescope:
 - a. Pluto
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____

True or False:

- ___ 3. The heliocentric model holds that the sun is at the center of the universe, and stars and planets revolve around the sun.
- ___ 4. Copernicus was the first to propose the heliocentric model.
- ___ 5. The geocentric model holds that Earth is at the center of the universe, and the sun and planets revolve around Earth.
- ___ 6. Kepler was the first to propose the heliocentric model.

Fill Ins:

7. _____
8. The very first _____
9. The _____ model holds that the sun is at the center of the universe, and stars and planets revolve around the sun.
10. The _____ model holds that Earth is at the center of the universe, and sun and planets revolve around Earth.
11. Galileo was forced to recant heliocentrism and spent his last years of life under house arrest by order of the _____.
12. _____ is credited with being the first major astronomer to formulate the heliocentric model.

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