

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Revolutionary Renaissance Thinkers: Copernicus and Galileo

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Copernicus's heliocentric model was groundbreaking because it challenged the prevailing belief that Earth was at the center of the universe, fundamentally altering our understanding of the cosmos and laying the foundation for modern astronomy.
2. Galileo Galilei's observations provided concrete evidence for the heliocentric model, as he observed the phases of Venus and the motion of Jupiter's moons, demonstrating that not all celestial bodies orbited Earth. This supported Copernicus's theory and revolutionized our understanding of the solar system.
3. Galileo Galilei's invention and use of the telescope were significant because it allowed him to make detailed observations of the night sky, leading to groundbreaking discoveries such as the Galilean moons of Jupiter. This instrument also played a crucial role in advancing astronomy and our knowledge of the cosmos.
4. Galileo's support for the heliocentric model led to conflict with the Catholic Church because it contradicted the geocentric model promoted by the Church at the time. The Church viewed Galileo's ideas as heretical, and he faced persecution for his beliefs. This conflict highlighted the tension between science and religion during the Renaissance.

