

THE BIRTH OF SCIENCE



Galileo is best known for discovering that the earth and the other planets revolve around the sun, at a time in history (around 1600) when everyone believed that the sun revolved around the earth. There was no “science” in 1600. There were no **experiments** or tests to prove anything. People like Galileo, who were interested in how the world worked, studied the works of the classical philosophers and thinkers like as Aristotle. But Galileo was different. It wasn’t enough for him to simply believe his **hypothesis**. He wanted to test the **principles** he was discovering, and he wanted to see if he could observe them in the real world. This was a new concept to his contemporaries and it was the very beginning of the scientific method.

A. Look up each bold word above in the dictionary. Write a definition for each word.

1. **experiment** _____
2. **hypotheses** _____
3. **principles** _____

4. Use the words to fill in the blanks in the sentences below.

A scientist conducts an _____ in order to test her _____ . When an experiment is repeated over and over again, under the same conditions, and always yields the same results, then a scientist may draw the conclusion that there is a scientific _____ at work that describes some aspect of the world.

5. Describe an experiment that you have done at home or at school. What was your hypothesis? What actually happened?
