

In 1515, a Polish priest named Nicolaus Copernicus proposed that the Earth was a planet like Venus or Saturn, and that all planets circled the Sun.

But the evidence for a heliocentric solar system gradually mounted

## Galileo

When Galileo pointed his telescope into the night sky in 1610, he saw for the first time in human history that moons orbited Jupiter

Galileo also observed the phases of Venus, which proved that the planet orbits the Sun

## Kepler

At about the same time, German mathematician Johannes Kepler was publishing a series of laws that describe the orbits of the planets around the Sun

Still in use today, the mathematical equations provided accurate predictions of the planets' movement under Copernican theory

## Brahe

He made the most precise observations that had yet been made by devising the best instruments available before the invention of the telescope.

His observations of planetary motion, particularly that of Mars, provided the crucial data for later astronomers like Kepler to construct our present model of the solar system.