

# **Willebrord Snellius**

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# Agenda

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- Biography
- Memorable Achievements
- Important Experiments

# Biography

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- Born in Leiden, the Netherlands in 1580
- Graduated from Leiden University in 1598
- Became a professor of mathematics and astronomy at Leiden University at the age of 26

**→ Snellius was known for his contributions to the field of optics, particularly for his work on the law of refraction**

# Memorable Achievements

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- Invented the Snell's Law of Refraction
- Published a table of the tangents (tafel van trigonometrische tangens) with mathematical functions for every 10 minutes of arc from 0 to 90 degrees
- Built an observatory in his home in Leiden to carry out astronomical observations

**→ Snellius is known for his mathematical tables, which were widely used by navigators and astronomers for over a century**

# Important Experiments

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- Conducted experiments on the reflection and refraction of light
- Investigated the properties and behavior of light in various media
- Demonstrated the law of refraction, which is now widely known as Snell's Law

**→ Snellius' work on optics paved the way for many important discoveries in the field, including the development of telescopes and microscopes**

# Thanks for your attention!

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Sources:

- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Willebrord\\_Snellius](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Willebrord_Snellius)
- <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Willebrord-Snell>
- <https://www.britannica.com/science/refraction-optics>