



# HOW DO TELESCOPES WORK? HOW DO THEY UNLOCK THE SECRETS OF THE UNIVERSE?

# HELLO THERE!



I'm Teja Teppala, an astronomy graduate student at Mizzou!  
I study star formation in distant galaxies.



**SO, WHO  
REALLY  
INVENTED THE  
TELESCOPE?**





**NO,**  
**IT WASN'T GALILEO!**



NO,  
**IT WASN'T GALILEO!**

Who was it then?



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**ANSWER**

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# **HANS LIPPERSHEY!**



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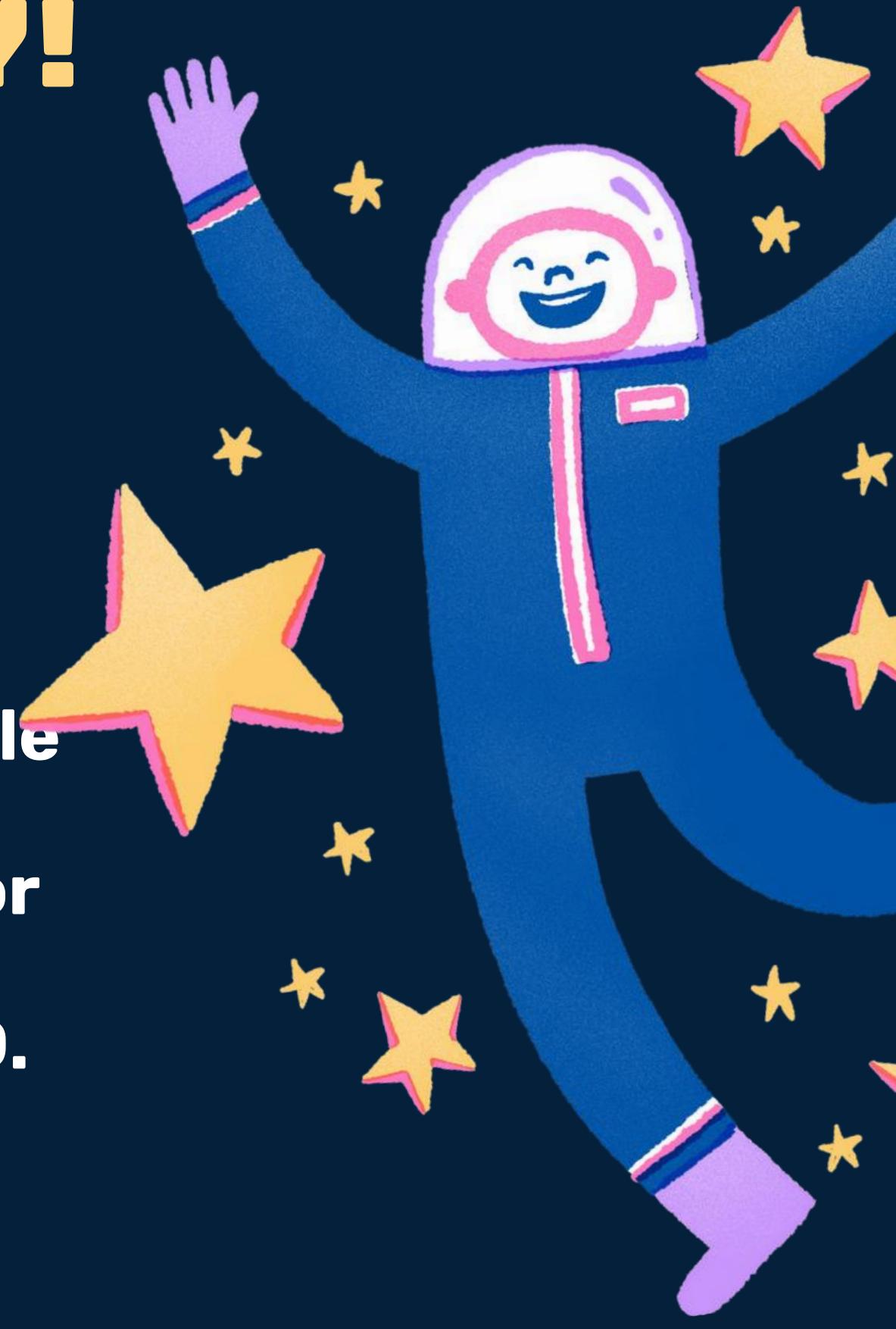
**ANSWER**

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# **HANS LIPPERSHEY!**



**He was a German-Dutch spectacle  
maker, and was the first inventor  
to patent the design, in 1608 AD.**



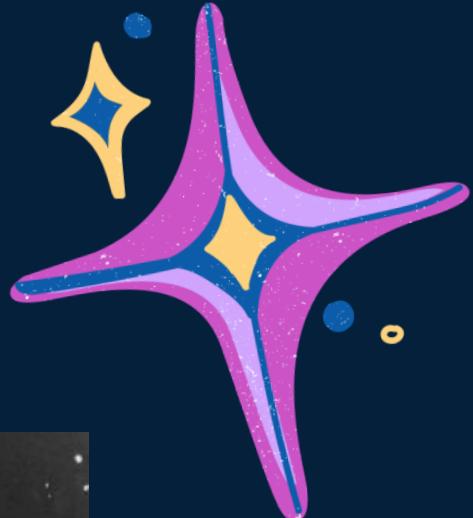


# GALILEO WAS THE FIRST TO USE A TELESCOPE FOR ASTRONOMY!



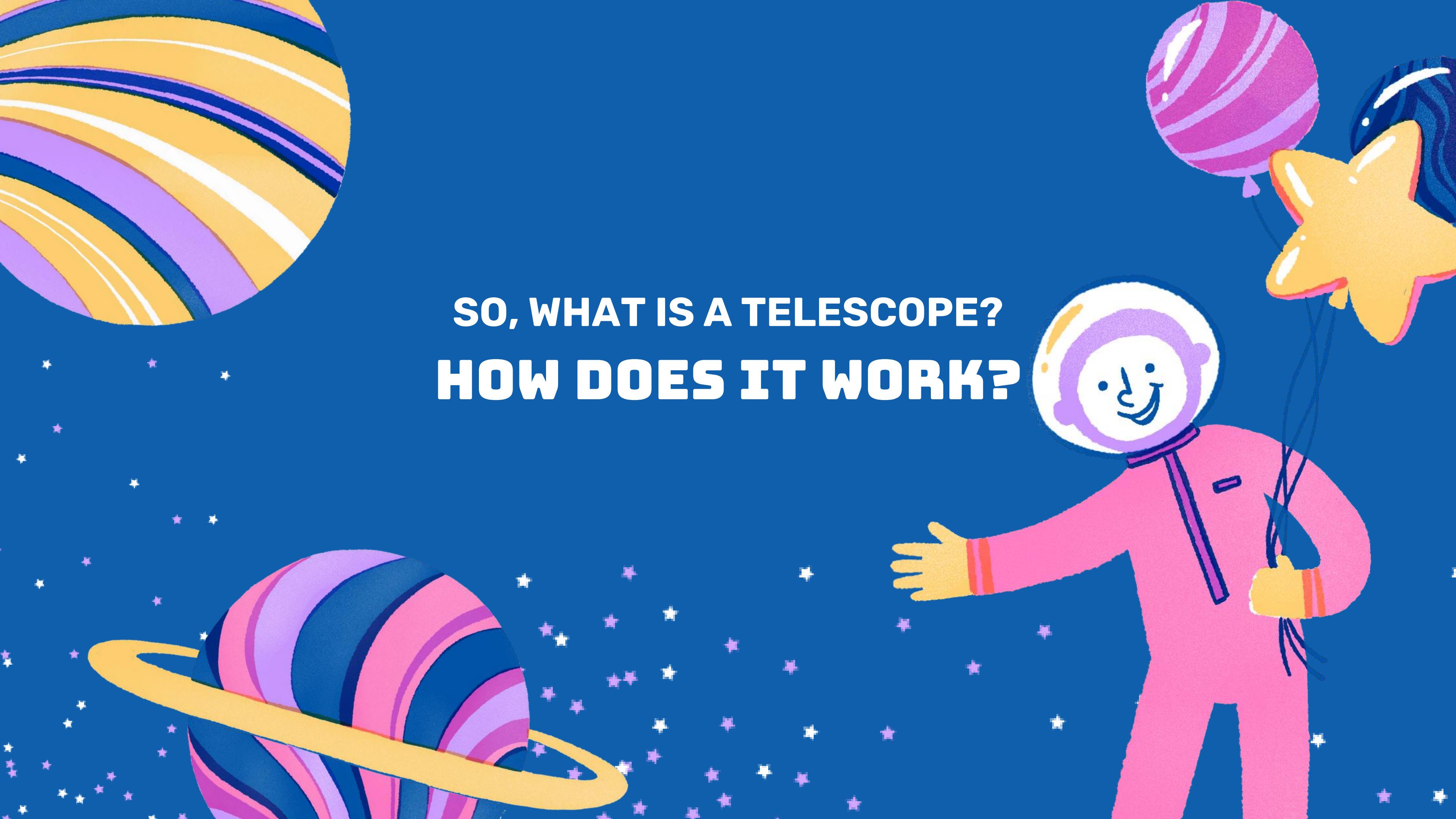


# GALILEO WAS THE FIRST TO USE A TELESCOPE FOR ASTRONOMY!



16

Galileo invented the telescope independently, and was the first to use it for astronomy.



**SO, WHAT IS A TELESCOPE?  
HOW DOES IT WORK?**

# WHY CAN'T YOU SEE AN OBJECT THAT'S FAR AWAY?



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The object doesn't take up much space on your eye's screen!



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**For example, you can't read the writing on a dime  
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**A TELESCOPE USES THIS TRICK!**



# WHAT IS A TELESCOPE?



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**THE WORD TELESCOPE COMES FROM THE GREEK WORD *TELESKOPOS*, WHICH MEANS ‘FAR-SEEING’**

A telescope has two main components:

- (a) Objective**
- (b) Eyepiece**



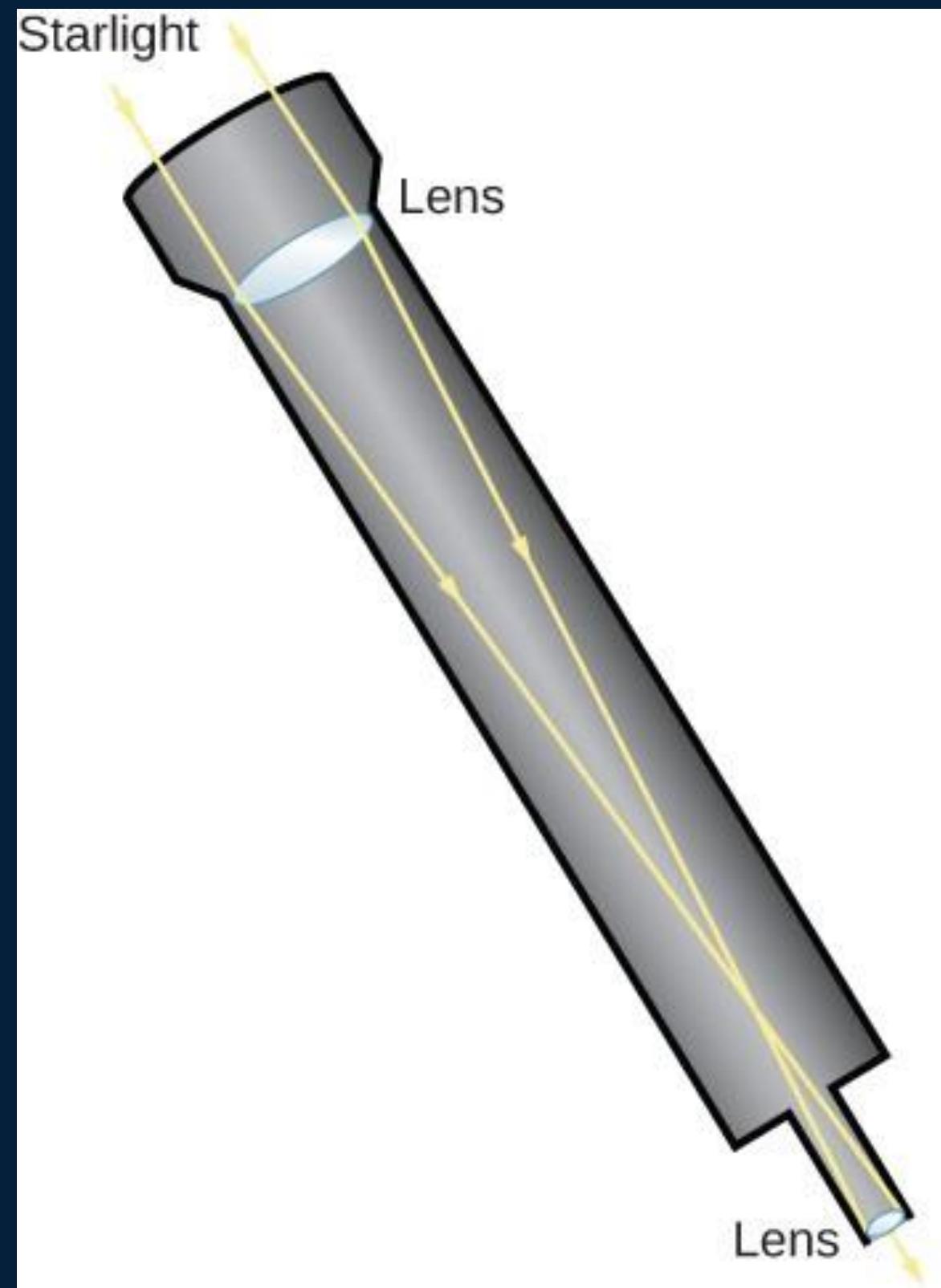


## OBJECTIVE



## **OBJECTIVE**

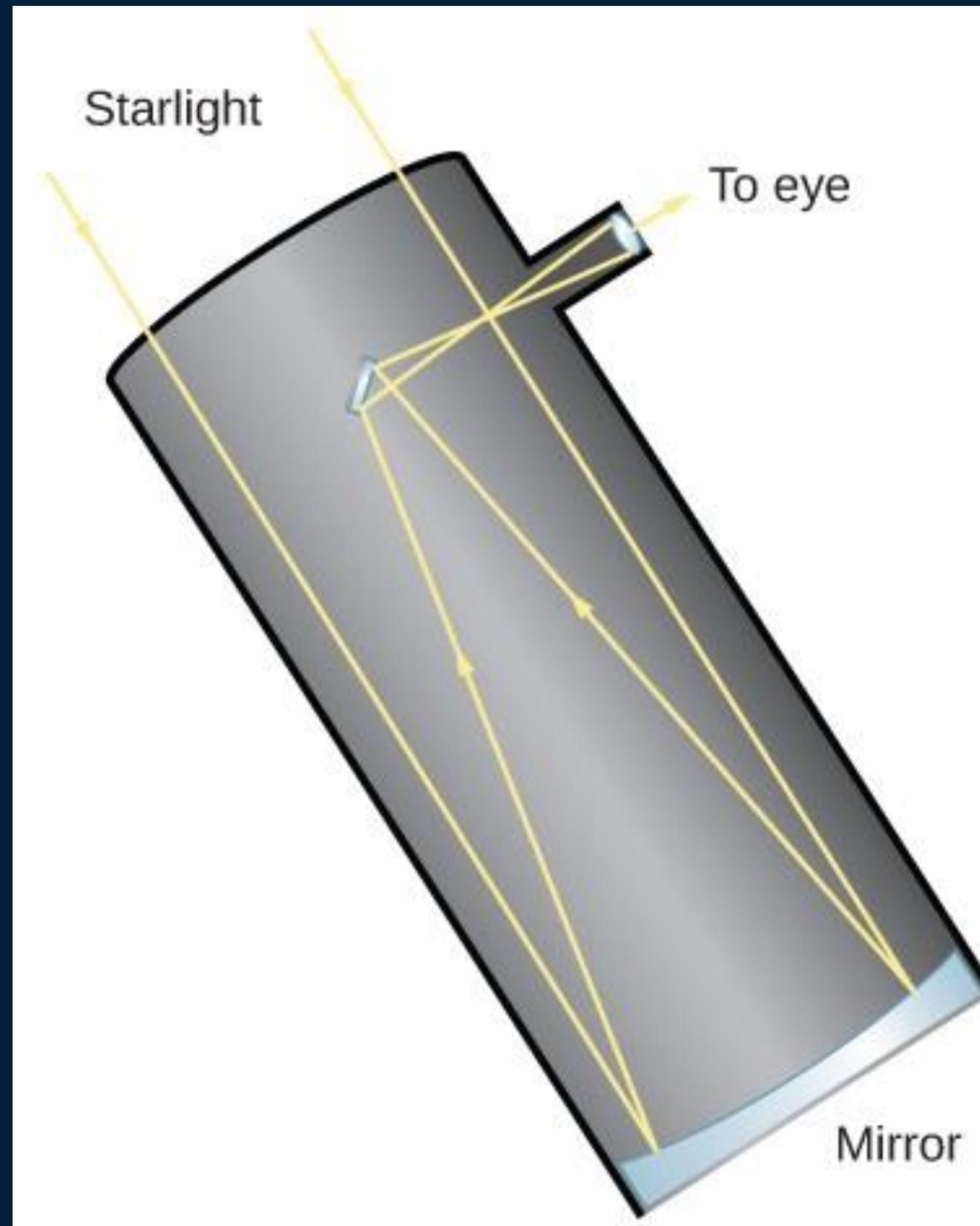
**An objective gathers a lot of light from  
a distant object, and brings that light  
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If the objective is a lens, it is called a **REFRACTOR** telescope.



## OBJECTIVE

An objective gathers a lot of light from a distant object, and brings that light to a point, or focus.

If the objective is a mirror, it is called a REFLECTOR telescope.



**EYEPIECE**



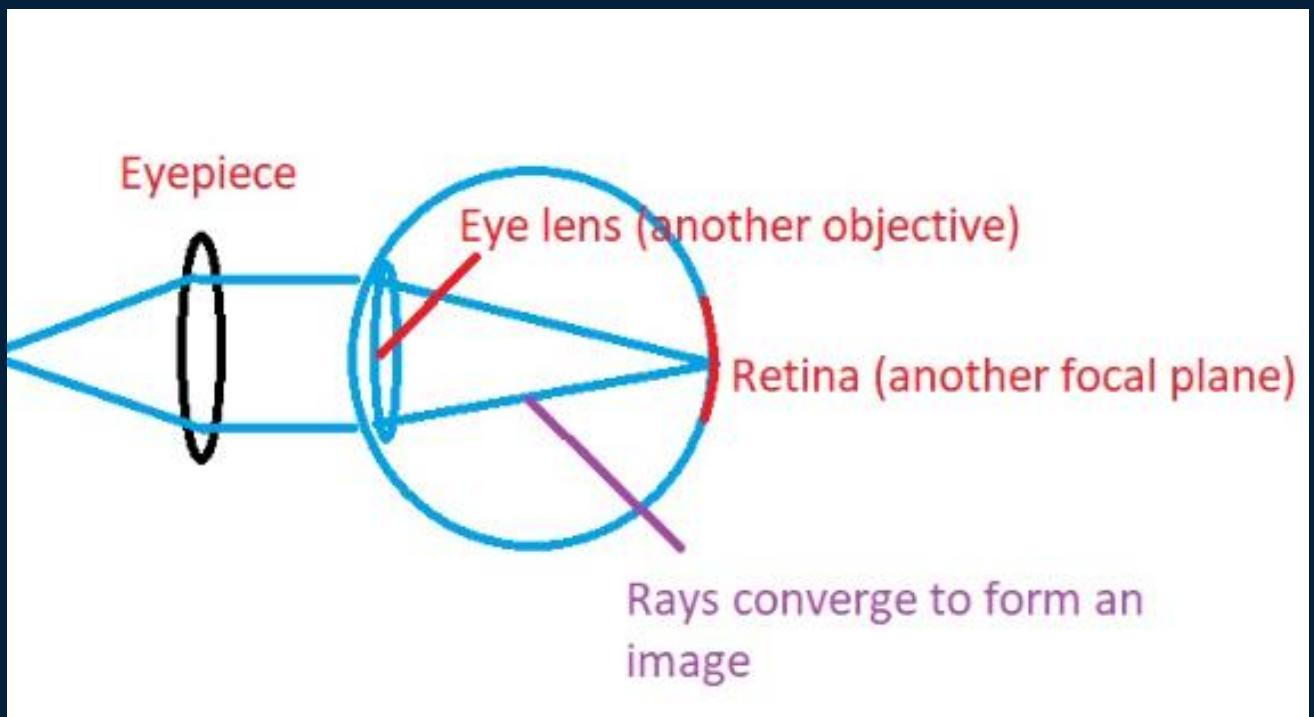
## **EYEPIECE**

**The eyepiece takes this light at focus,  
and spreads it out so that it makes a  
big image on your eye's screen.**

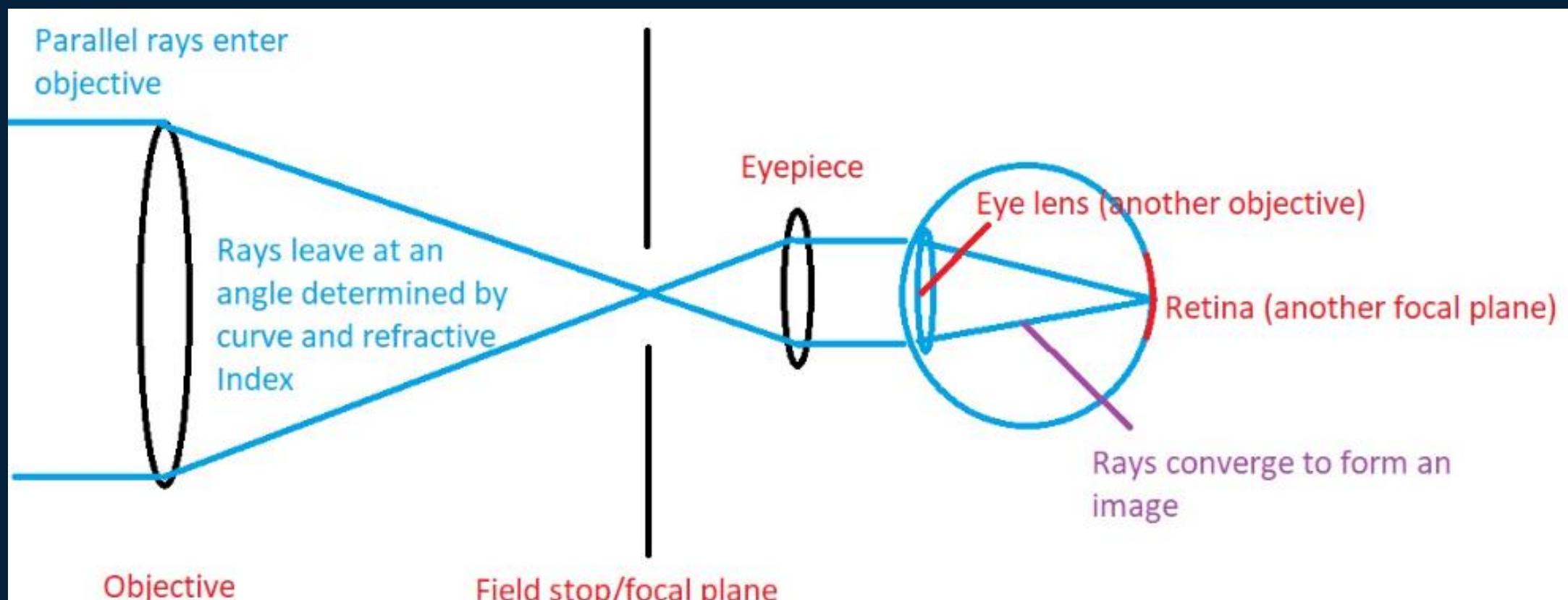


## EYEPIECE

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# WHEN YOU COMBINE THE OBJECTIVE WITH AN EYEPIECE, YOU HAVE A TELESCOPE!





NOW, LET'S SEE THE WORKING  
OF TELESCOPES  
**IN ACTION!**

**NOW, SOME BIG QUESTIONS...**



# NOW, SOME BIG QUESTIONS...★



# NOW, SOME BIG QUESTIONS...★



**Is Earth the center of  
the universe?**

# NOW, SOME BIG QUESTIONS...★



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**How far are the stars? What  
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**How old is the universe?**

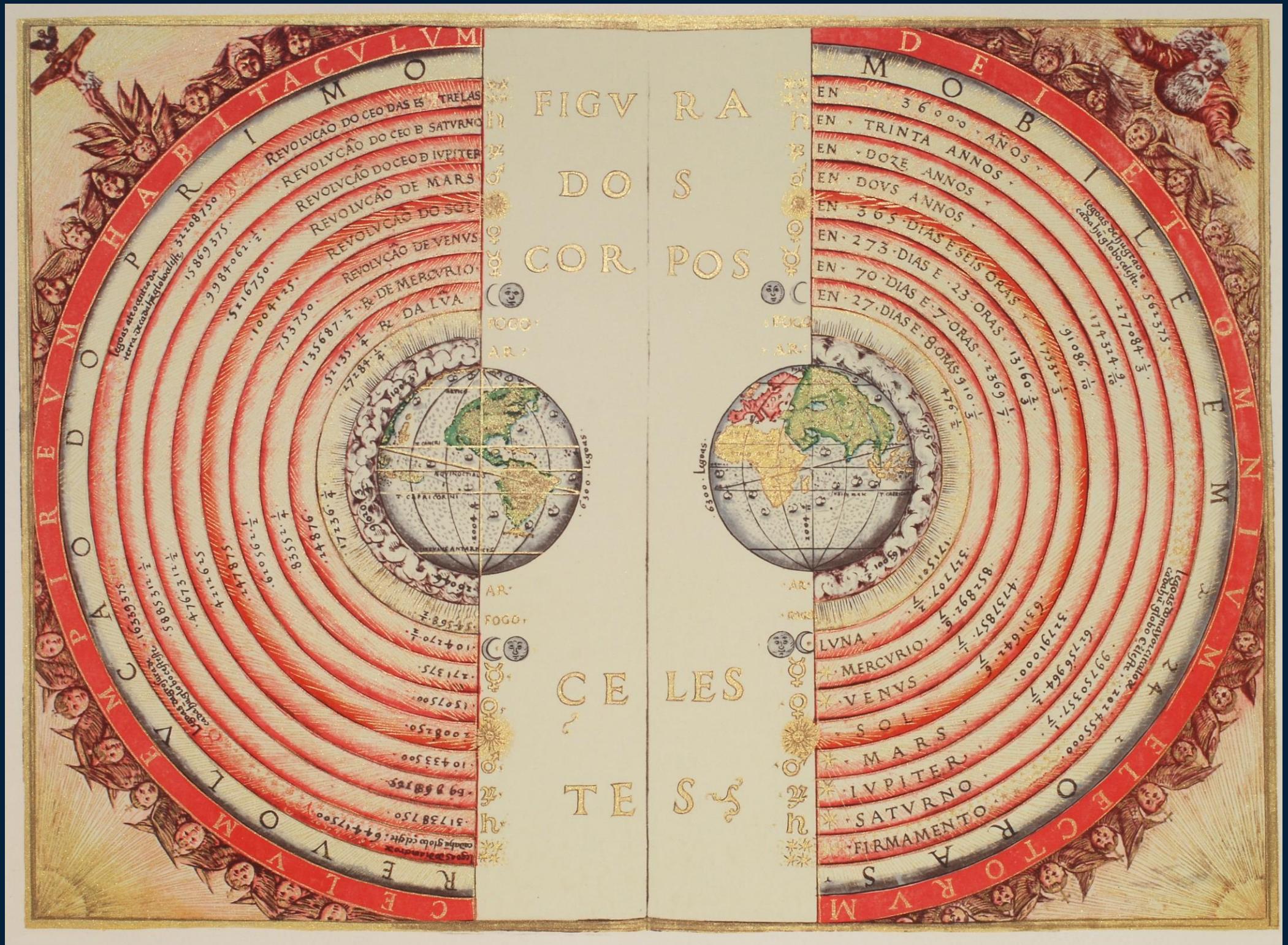
**SO HOW DID TELESCOPES  
HELP ANSWER THESE  
QUESTIONS?**



# **IS EARTH THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE?**

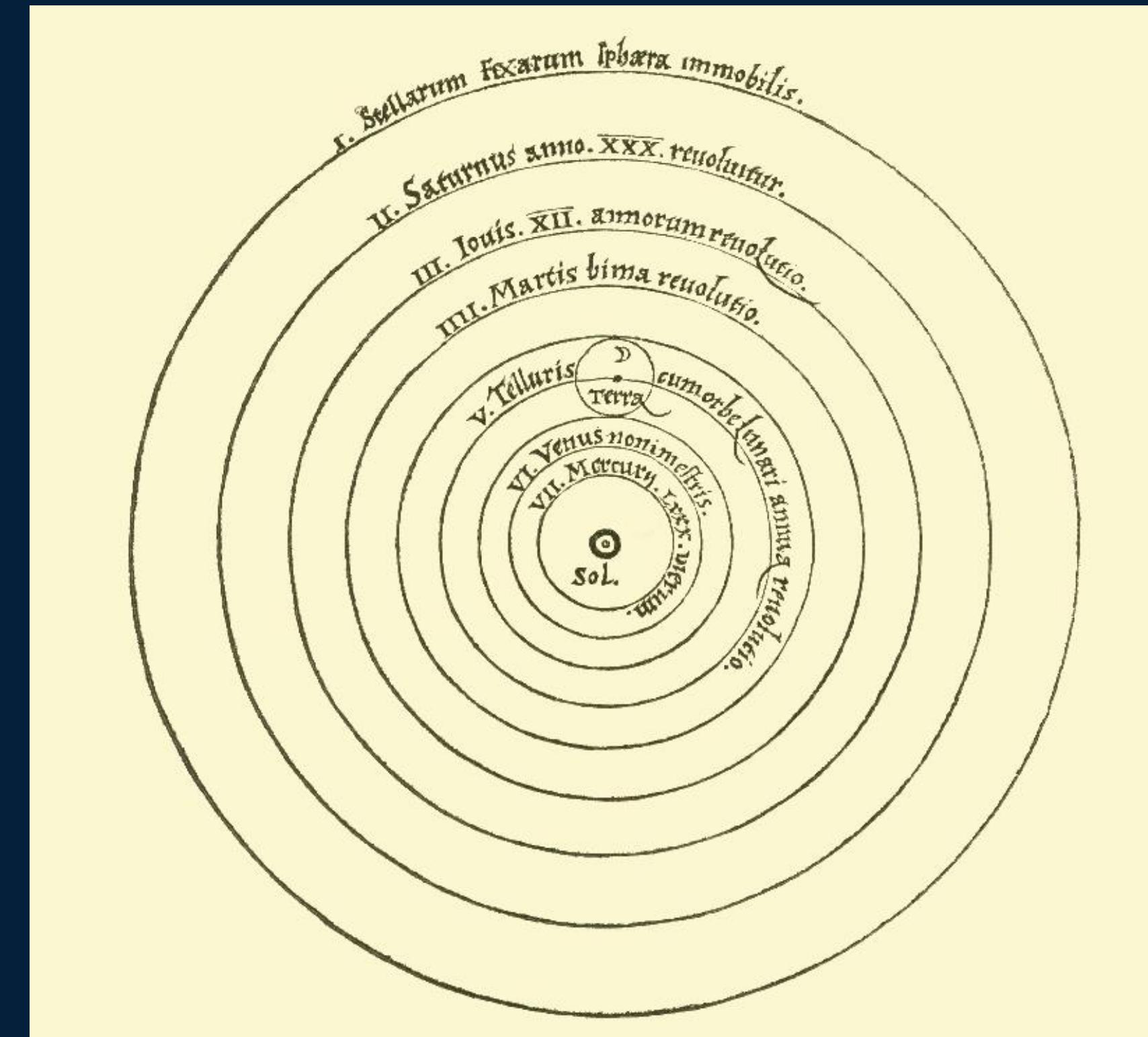
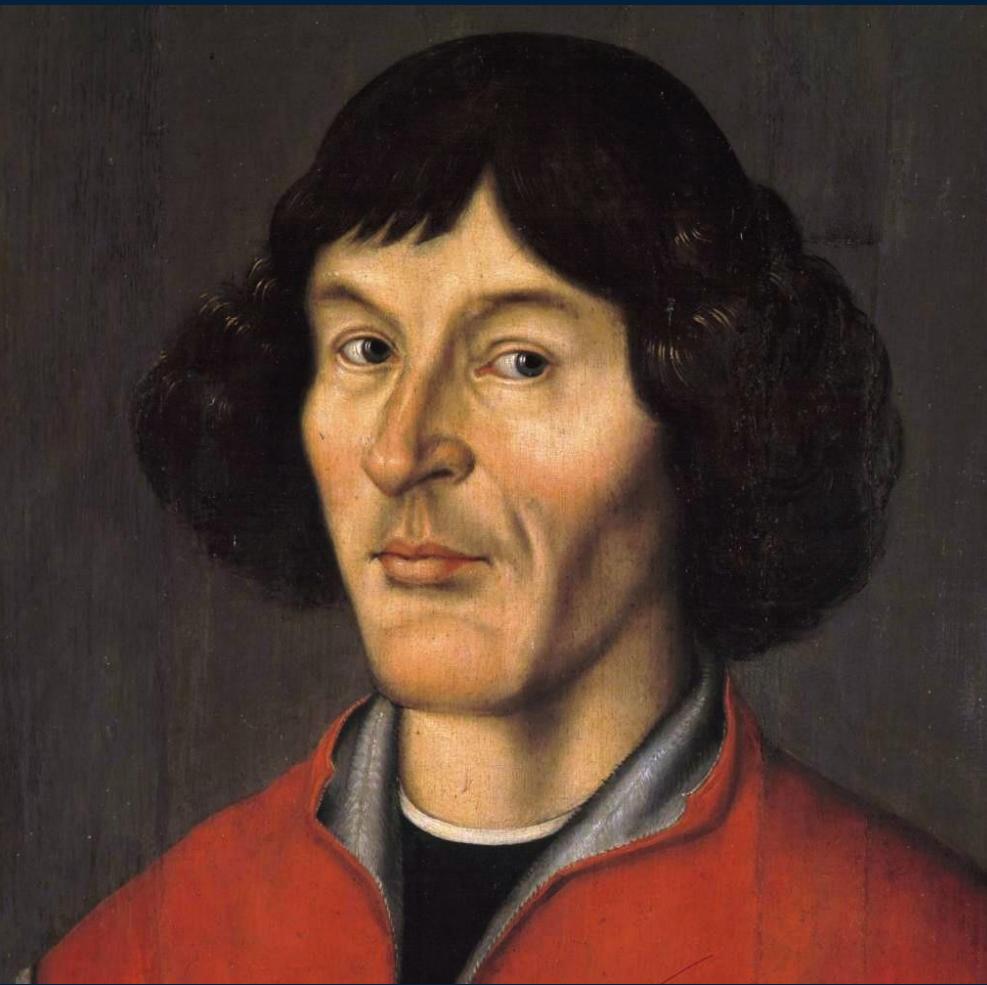
# IS EARTH THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE?

Aristotle said “Earth”.



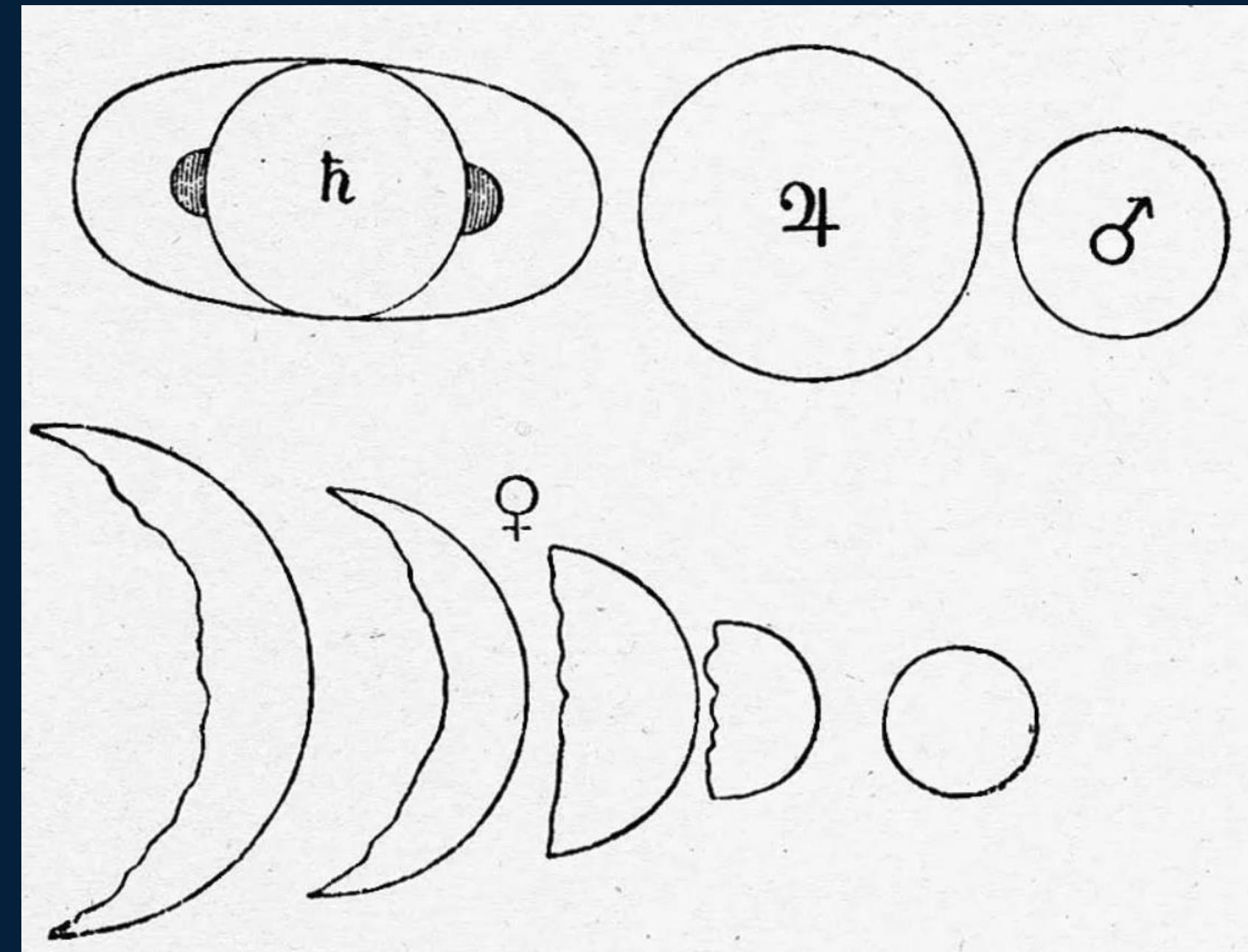
# IS EARTH THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE?

Copernicus said “Nope, it is the Sun”.



# IS EARTH THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE?

Galileo observed the phases of Venus with his telescope and determined it is the Sun.

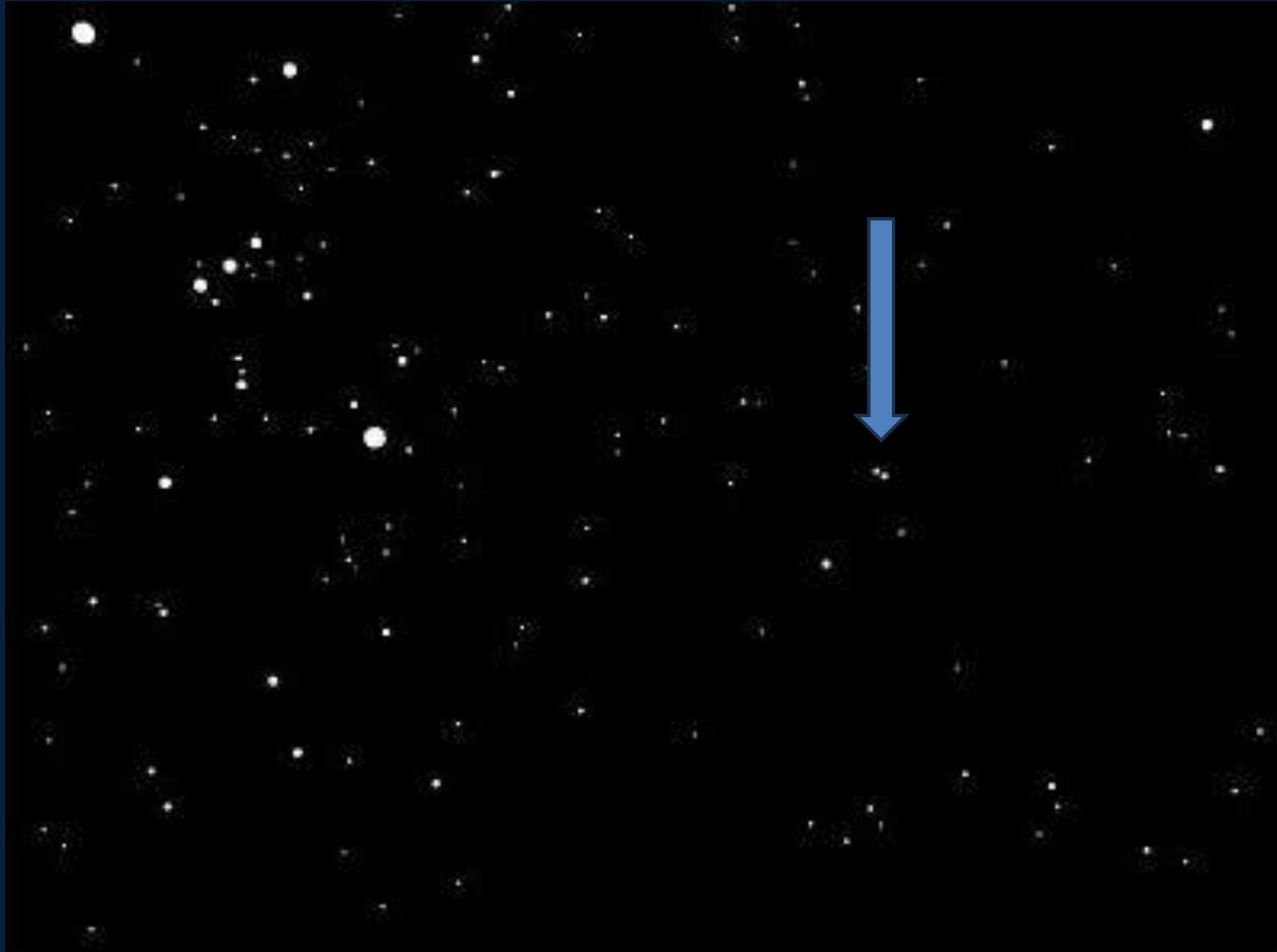


**HOW FAR ARE THE STARS?  
WHAT ARE THEY MADE OF?**



## **HOW FAR ARE THE STARS? WHAT ARE THEY MADE OF?**

**We started noticing the positions of stars shifted of the course of a year.**



## **HOW FAR ARE THE STARS? WHAT ARE THEY MADE OF?**

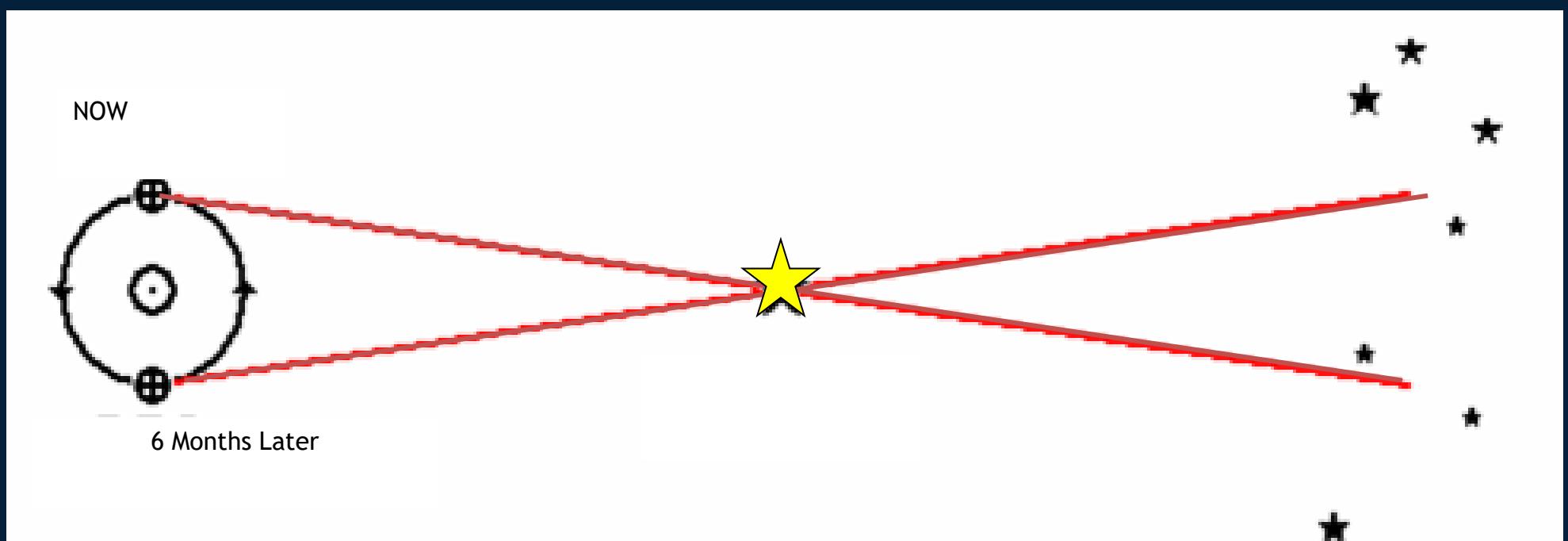
**We started noticing the positions of stars shifted of the course of a year.**

**Six months later..**

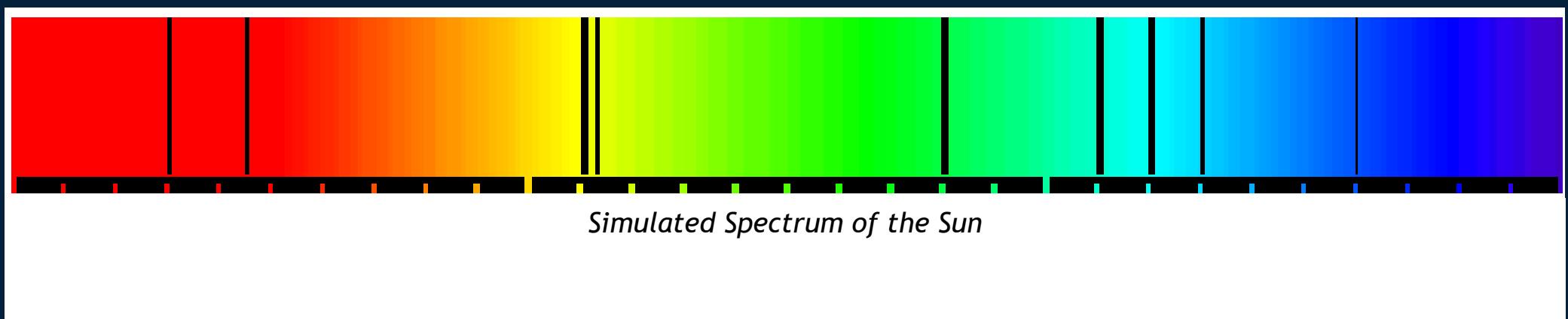
## HOW FAR ARE THE STARS? WHAT ARE THEY MADE OF?



Using this difference, Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel measured the accurate distances to the stars using instruments at the Königsberg Observatory.

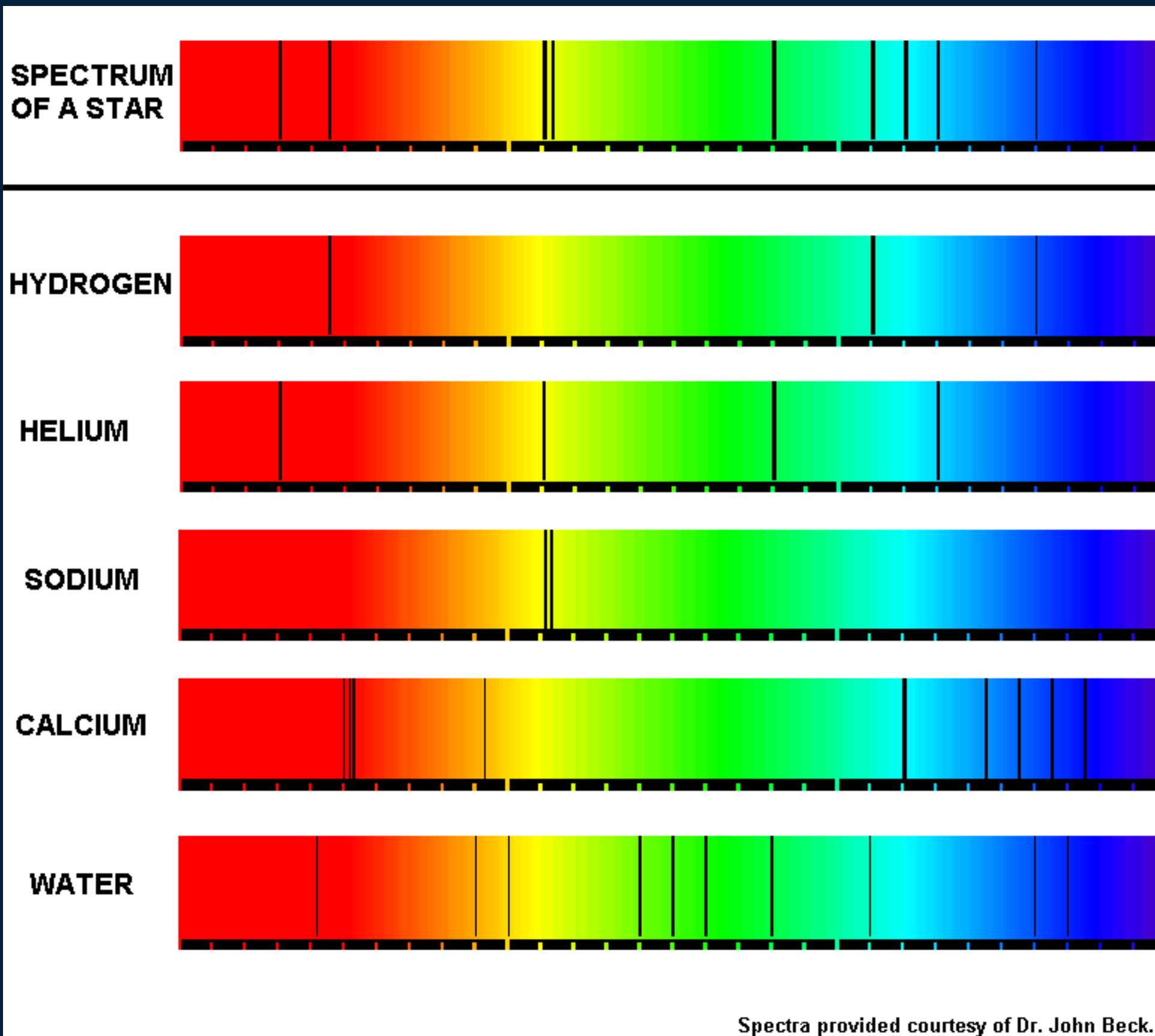


# HOW FAR ARE THE STARS? WHAT ARE THEY MADE OF?



**Using instruments at the Königsberg Observatory, Joseph von Fraunhofer studied the white light from the Sun, and observed colors like the rainbow, with some dark lines. He called it a spectrum.**





## HOW FAR ARE THE STARS? WHAT ARE THEY MADE OF?

Those dark lines turned out to be the fingerprints of the elements that made up the atoms of the Sun's atmosphere!

Soon, the spectra of stars revealed these same dark lines!

Time for a small activity!

# IS SUN THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE?

Less than 100 years ago, Sun was  
thought to be the center of the  
universe.



# IS SUN THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE?

**Harlow Shapley, observed bunches of stars called globular clusters, using the 60 inch reflector telescope at the Mount Wilson Observatory.**



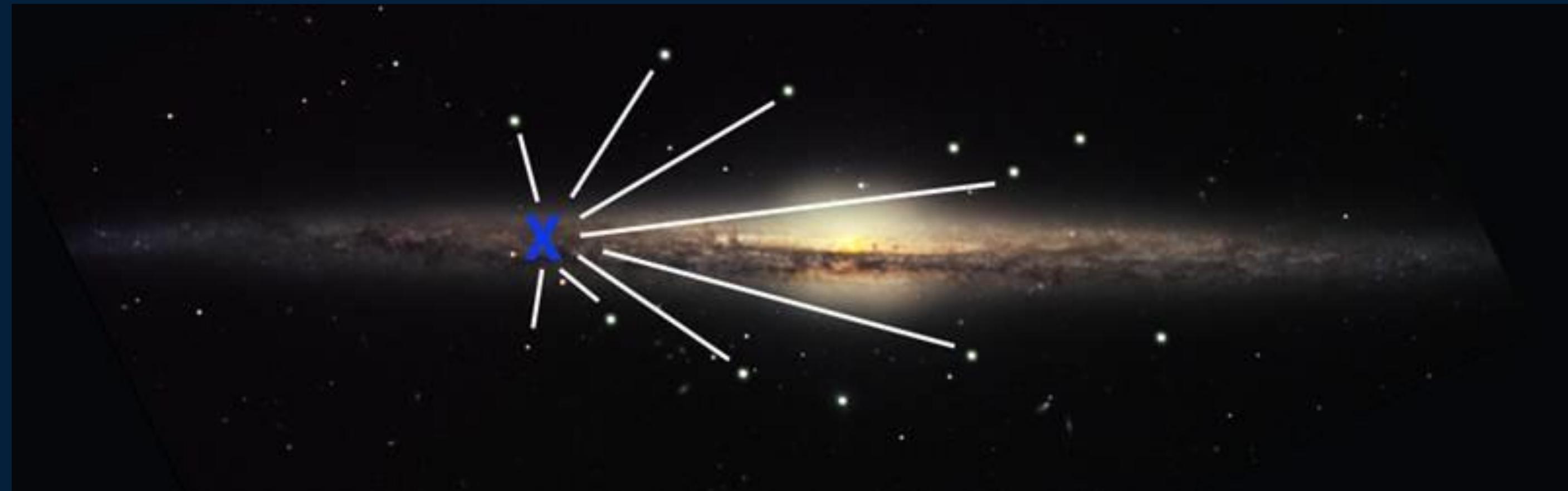
# IS SUN THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE?

If we were at the center of the galaxy,  
these star clusters should be  
randomly distributed in all directions  
around us. But what did Shapley  
discover?



# IS SUN THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE?

He found clusters to be in a spherical distribution in one direction – toward the constellation of Sagittarius. The location of the center of our galaxy had been determined, and we weren't there! In fact, the Solar System (the sun and its planets) was far from the center – out in the suburbs!





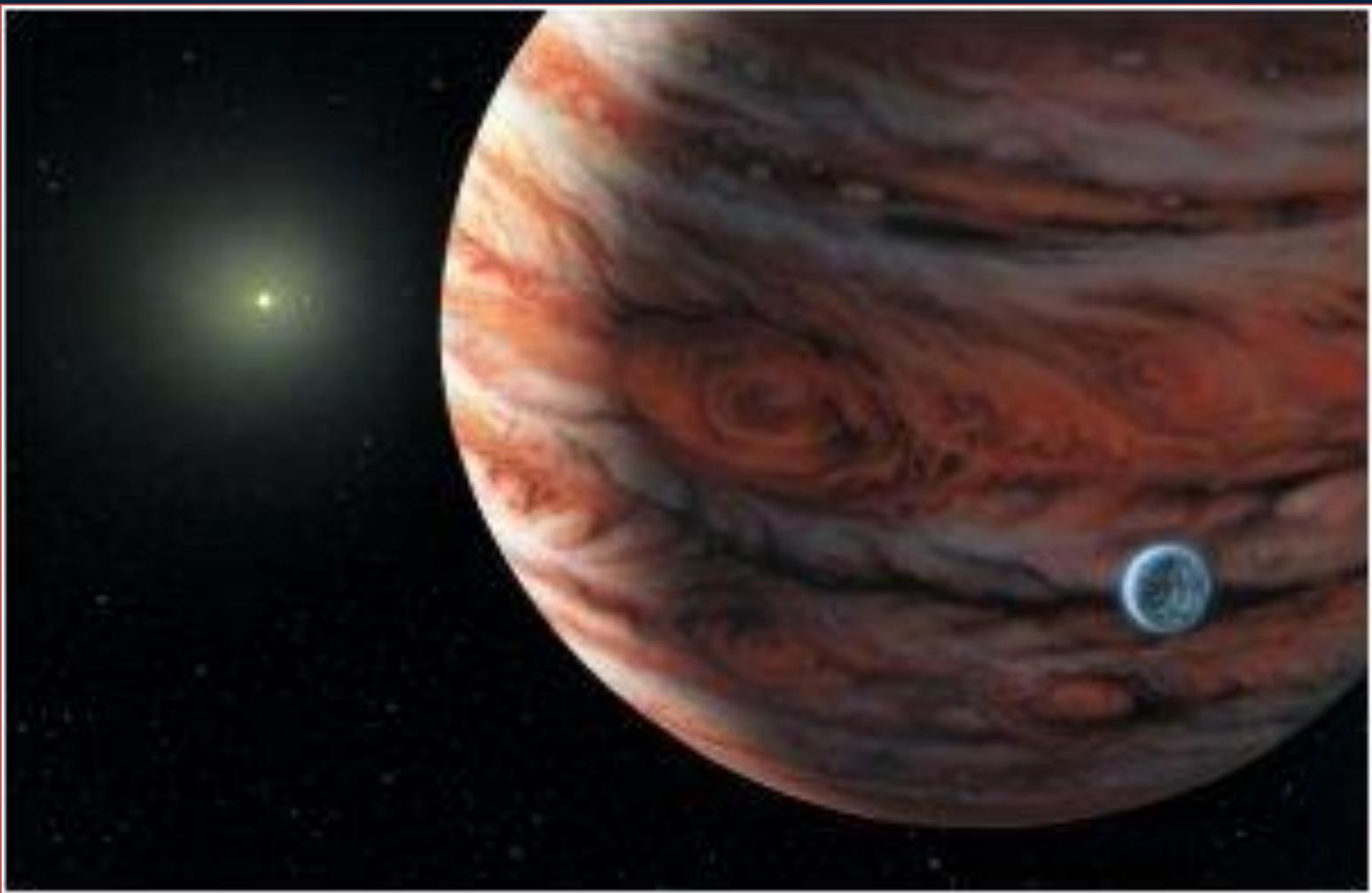
## ARE THERE OTHER PLANETS?

**Before telescopes, we only knew of 6 planets around the Sun: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn.**

**William Herschel built the largest telescope of his time, 48-inch reflector; he discovered the first planet beyond Saturn: Uranus!**

**Neptune (and Pluto) were eventually discovered using telescopes.**

## **ARE THERE OTHER PLANETS?**



**Are there any planets beyond the solar system?**

**Scientists first started finding planets around other stars in our Galaxy in the 1990s.**

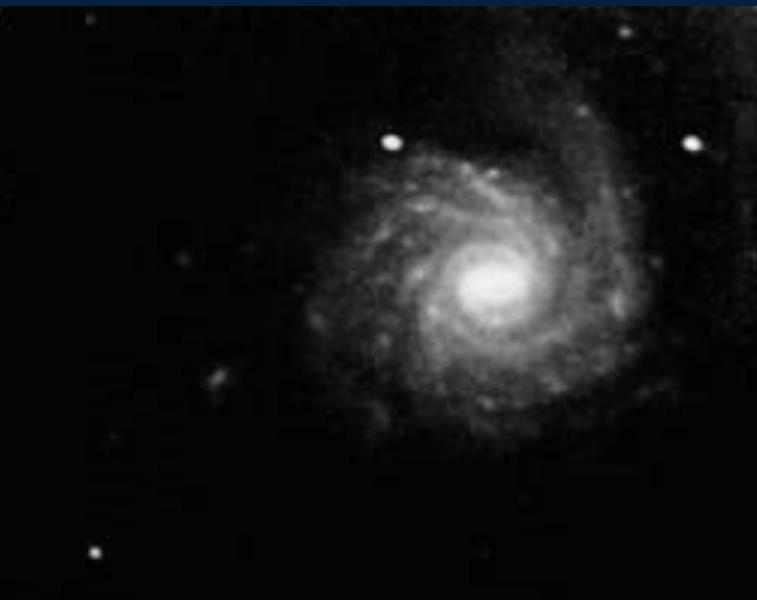
**Since they are so far away, we cannot really 'see' them; instead we search for eclipses around stars!**

# **ARE THERE OTHER GALAXIES?**

**Less than 100 years ago it was still unknown whether our galaxy was the whole universe or just one of many galaxies.**



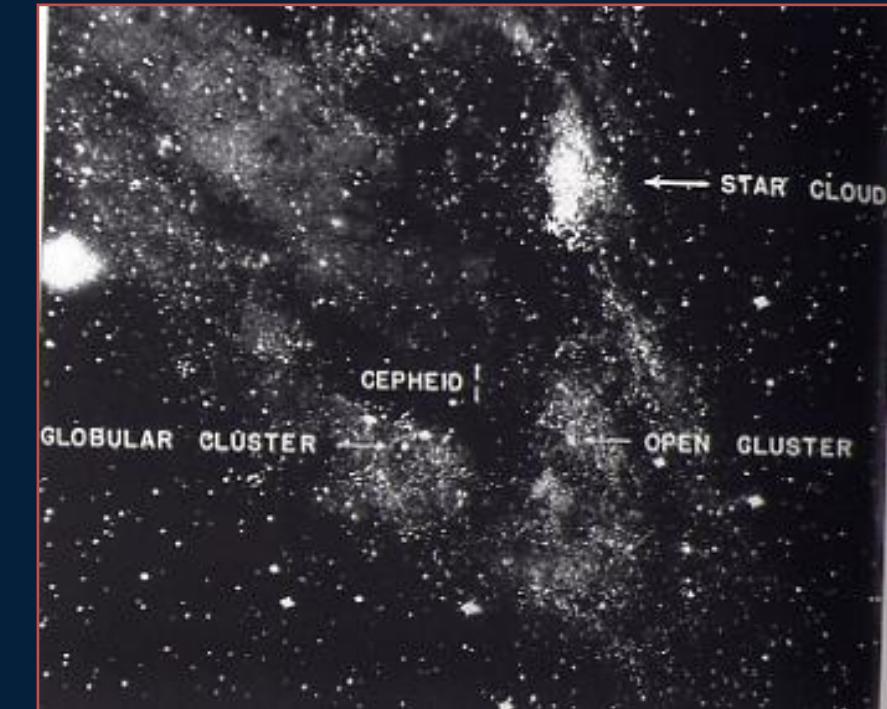
**"Spiral nebulae" had been observed and studied since the early 19th century. The term "nebulae" refers to their fuzzy or gaseous appearance. There was variety in their structure or shape that could be documented, but their size was unknown because their distance was unknown.**



# ARE THERE OTHER GALAXIES?

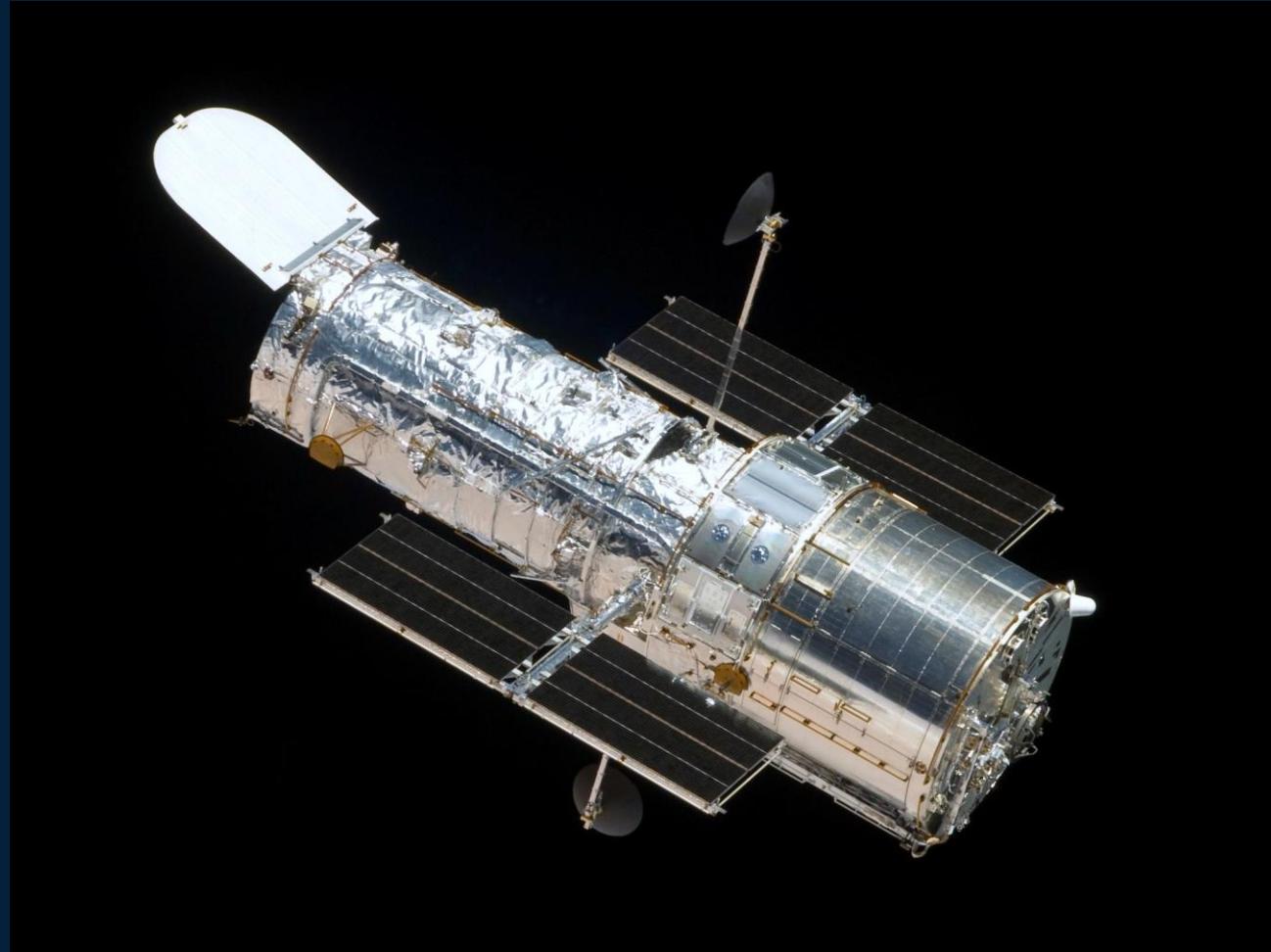
In 1924, Edwin Hubble, using the newly built Mt Wilson 100-inch telescope, estimated the distance to the stars and the nebula in Andromeda galaxy.

The huge distance he measured (2 million light years) meant that Andromeda itself was huge, and a galaxy in its own right.



# ARE THERE OTHER GALAXIES?

**Suddenly, our Universe was not just  
the Milky Way galaxy, but a cosmos  
filled with galaxies!**

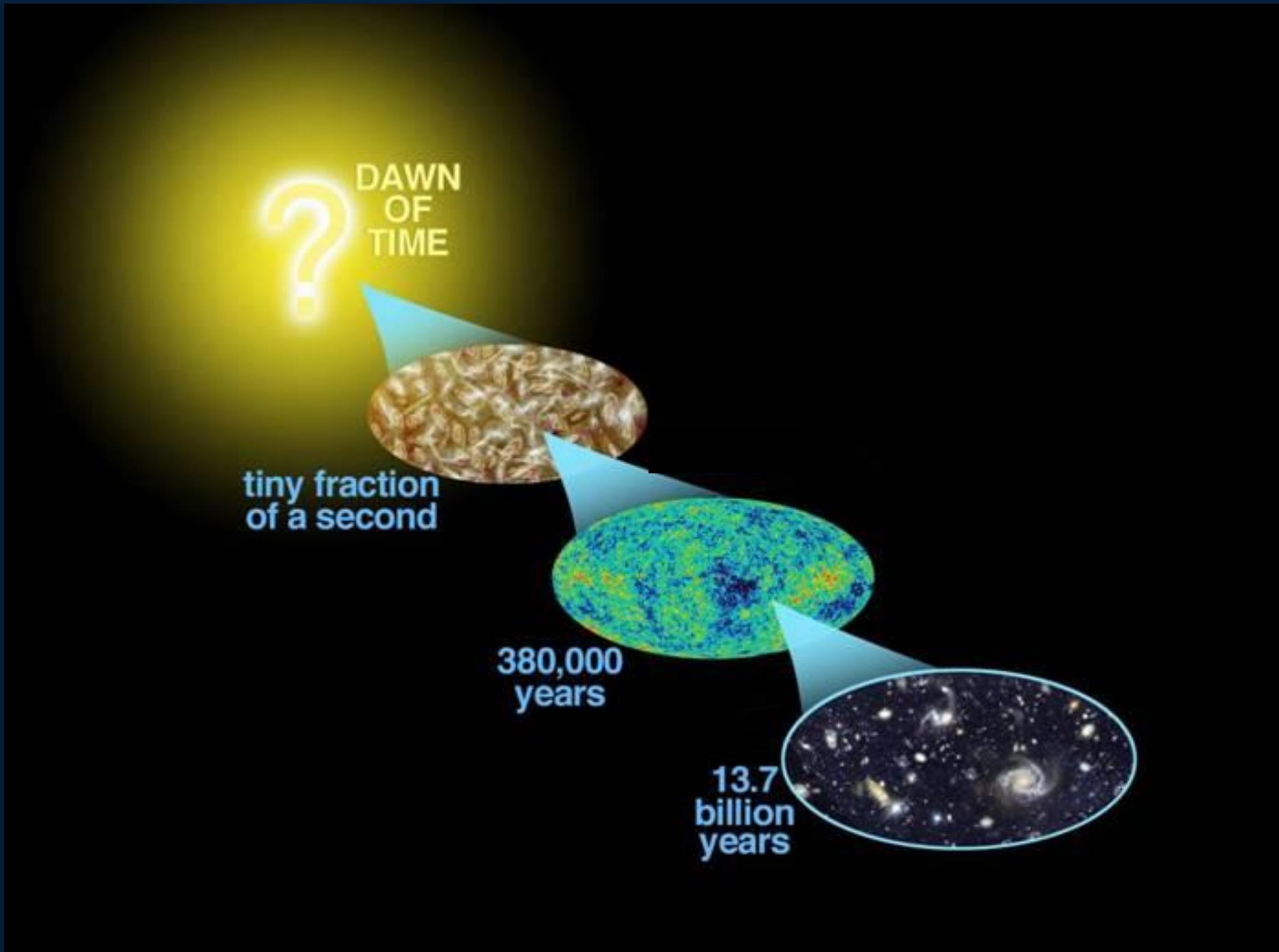


## HOW OLD IS THE UNIVERSE?

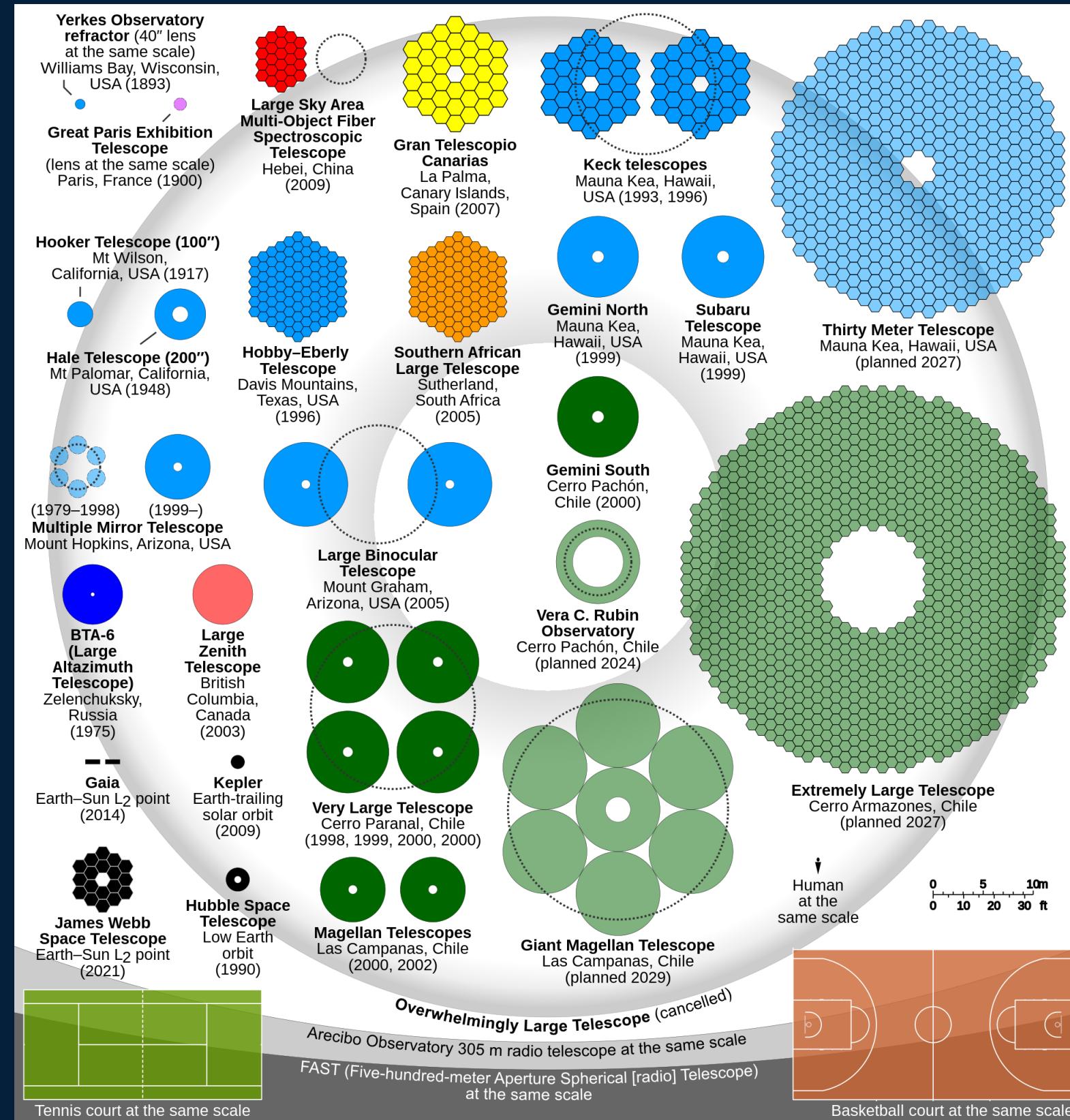
Hubble also discovered that these distant galaxies are moving faster away from us!

The universe is expanding!

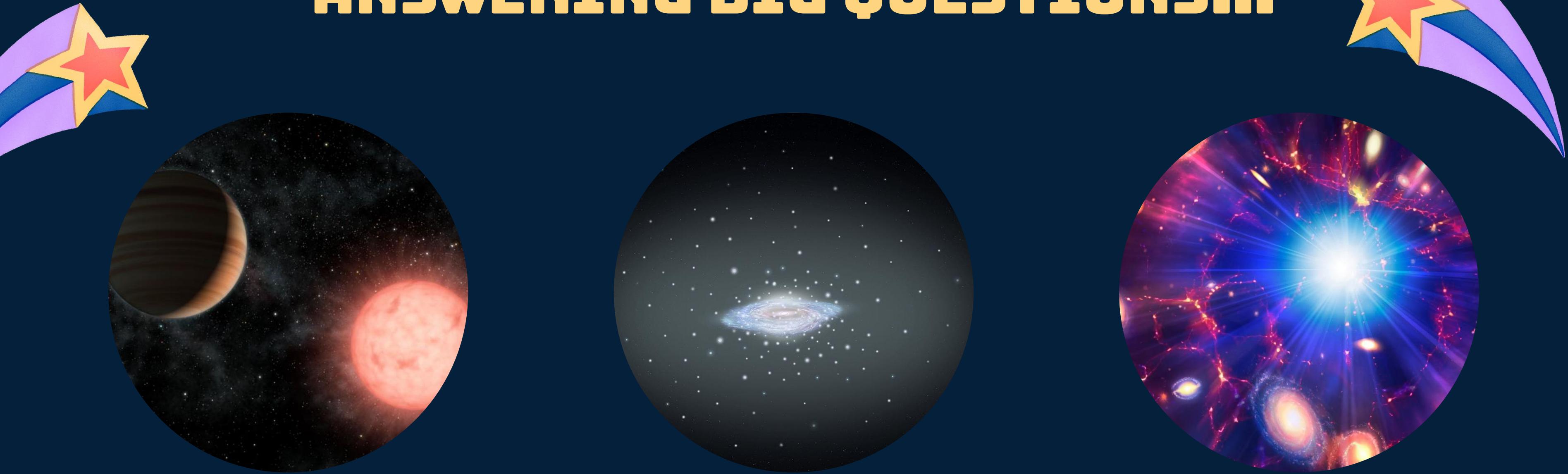
By measure the rate at which these galaxies are moving, we estimate that the universe started with a Big Bang, 13.6 Billion years ago!



# TELESCOPES HAVE CHANGED OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE UNIVERSE...



# **ANSWERING BIG QUESTIONS...**



**Is Earth the center of  
the universe?**

**How far are the stars? What  
are they made of?**

**Is the Solar System at  
the center of the Galaxy?**

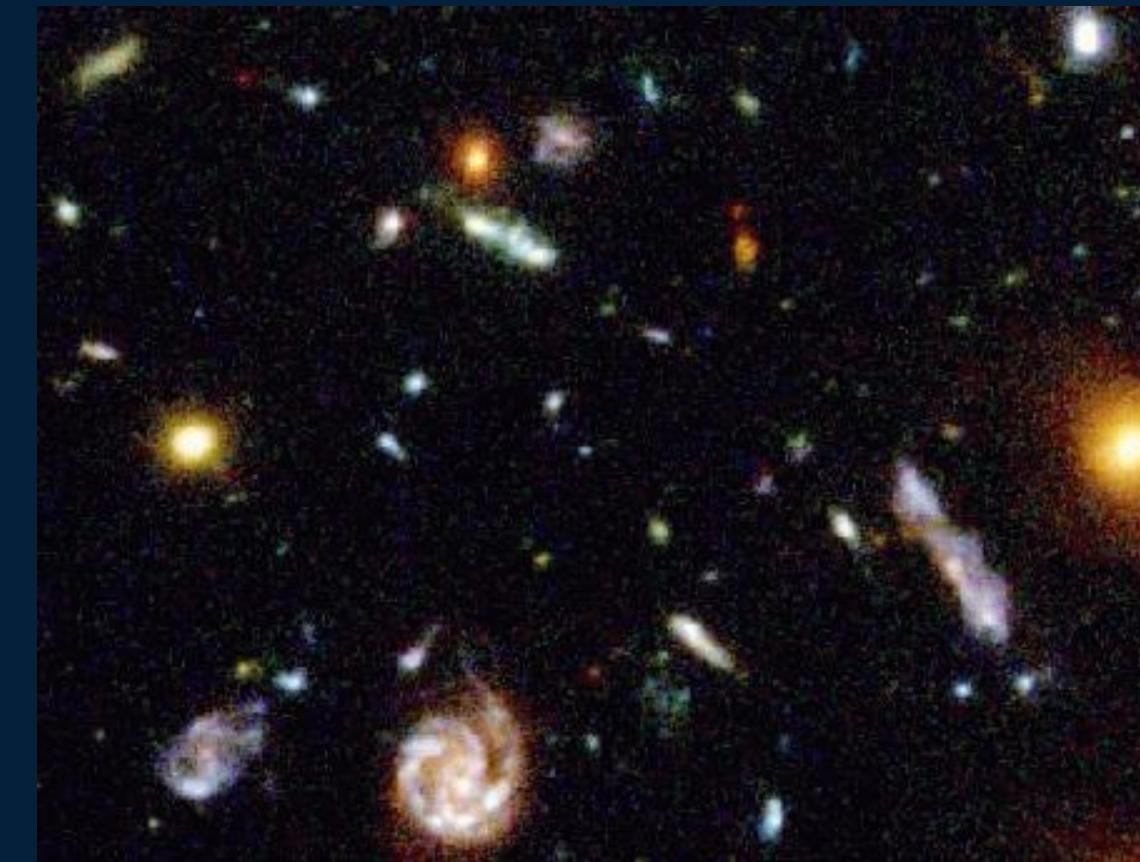
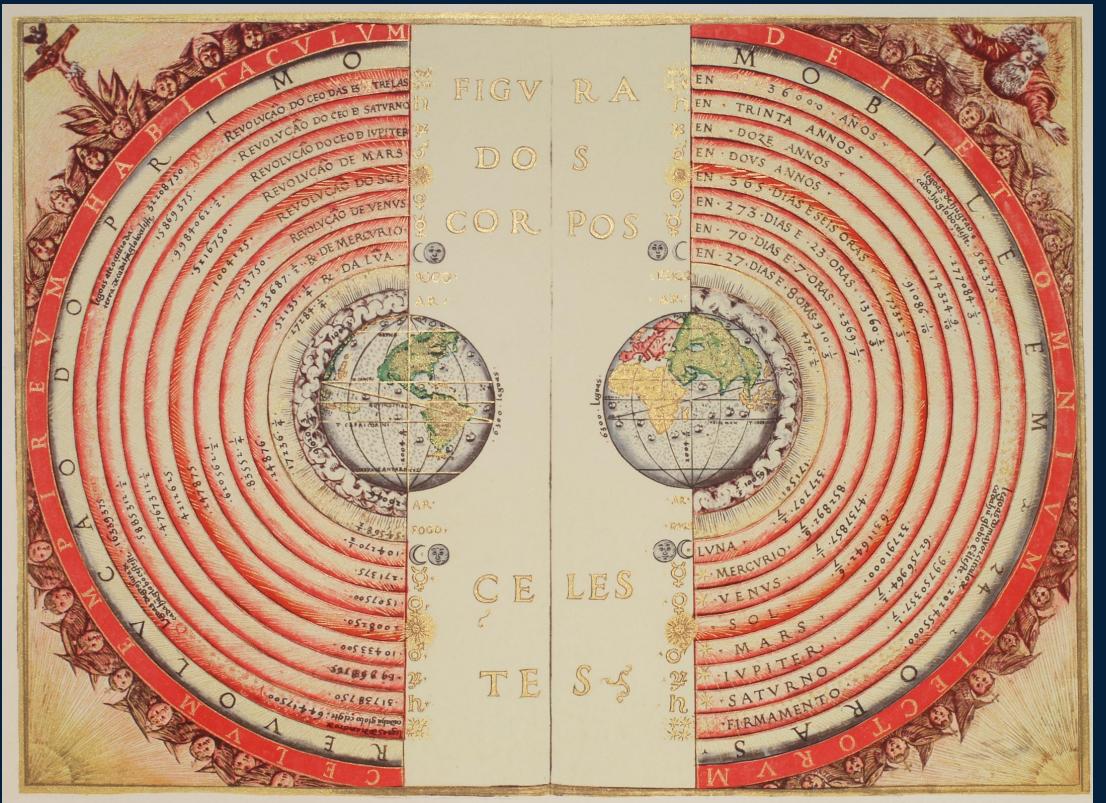
**Are there planets outside of  
our solar system?**

**Are there more  
galaxies?**

**How old is the universe?**

# CHANGING OUR UNDERSTANDING OF OUR PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE!

From the center of the universe...



... to a very small planet in an immense expanding universe



# QUESTIONS?





THANK  
YOU!

Teja Teppala

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## ANSWER

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### A. HOT AND POISONOUS

Venus is surrounded by  
thick, acidic clouds  
around 30 miles above its  
surface.





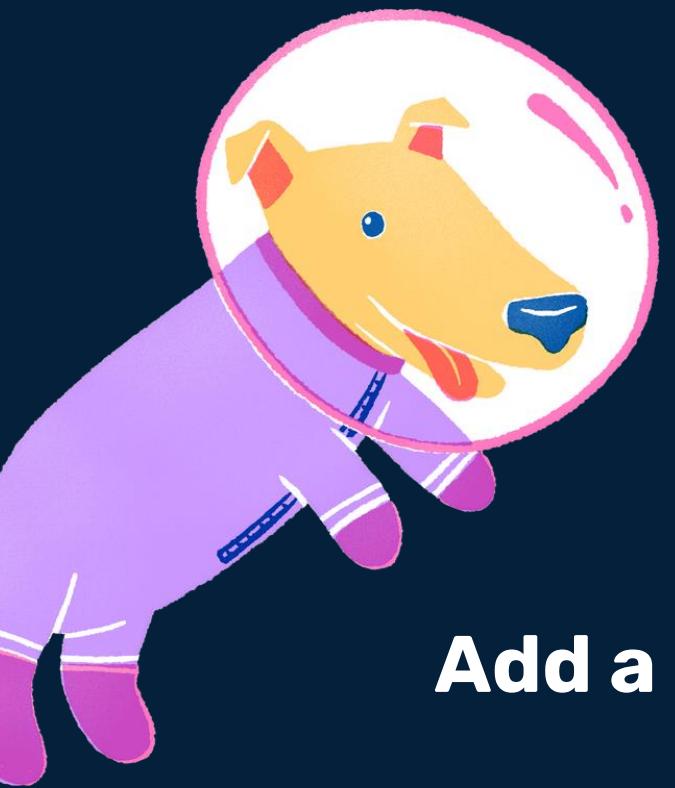
**ANSWER**

**A. JUPITER**

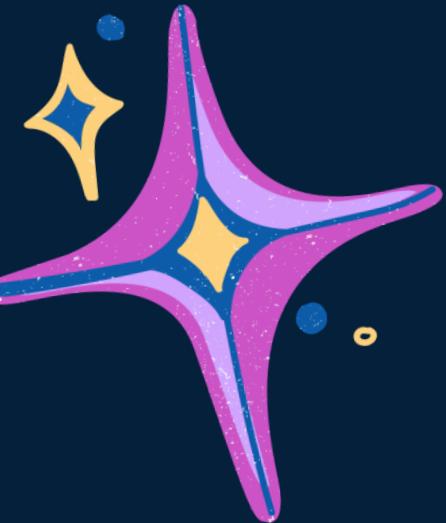
**Jupiter is the largest planet in our  
solar system, with a diameter of  
86,881 miles!**

# WHY CAN'T YOU SEE AN OBJECT THAT'S FAR AWAY?





# QUIZ CATEGORIES



**Add a main point**



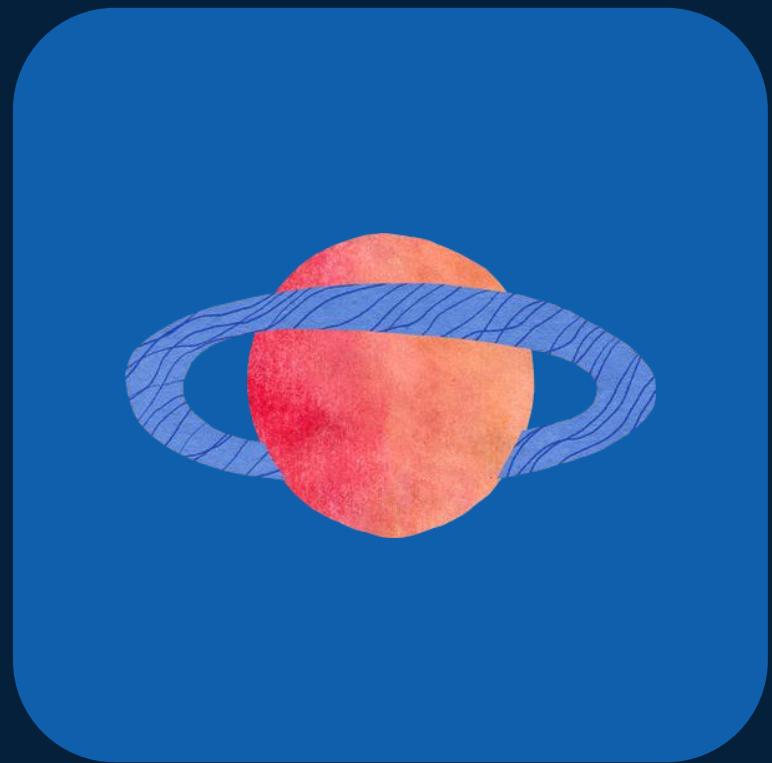
**Briefly elaborate on  
what you want to  
discuss.**

**Add a main point**



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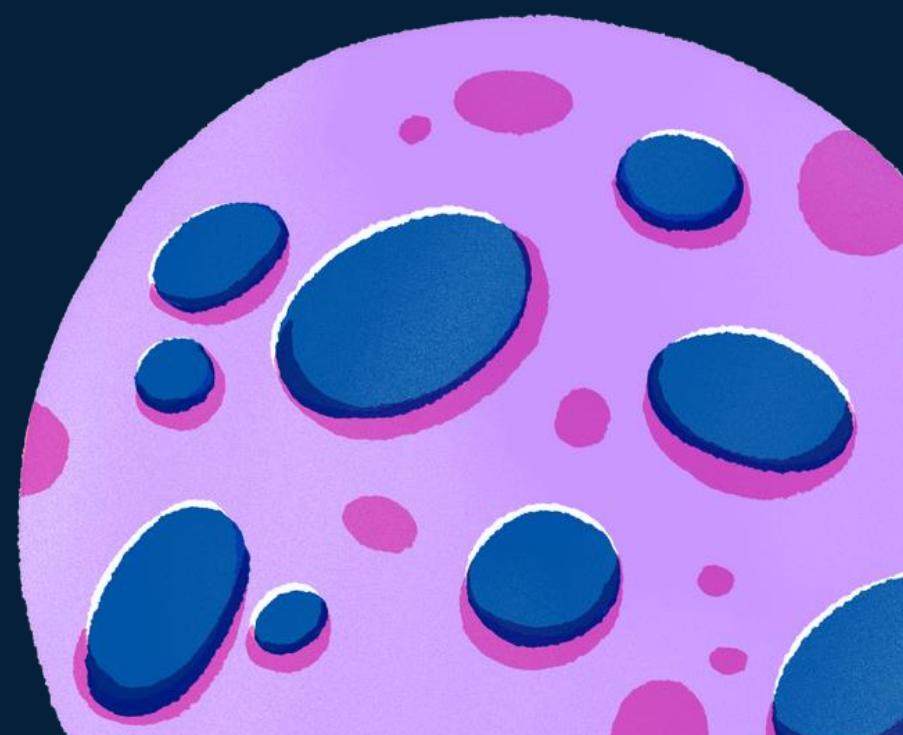
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## SECTION A

01

Describe the  
topic  
of this section.



## SECTION B

02

Describe the  
topic  
of this section.

## SECTION C

03

Describe the  
topic  
of this section.



# WRITE YOUR TOPIC OR IDEA



## The Solar System

Briefly elaborate on  
what you want to discuss.



## Planets

Briefly elaborate on  
what you want to discuss.



## The Sun

Briefly elaborate on  
what you want to discuss.

---

## QUESTION 1

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# WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE LARGEST PLANET IN OUR SOLAR SYSTEM?



- A Jupiter
- B Saturn
- C Uranus
- D Neptune



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## MULTIPLE CHOICES

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# WHICH OF THESE BEST DESCRIBES THE ATMOSPHERE SURROUNDING VENUS?



A

Hot and poisonous

B

Bright and sunny

C

Cold and snowy

D

Cold and wet



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