

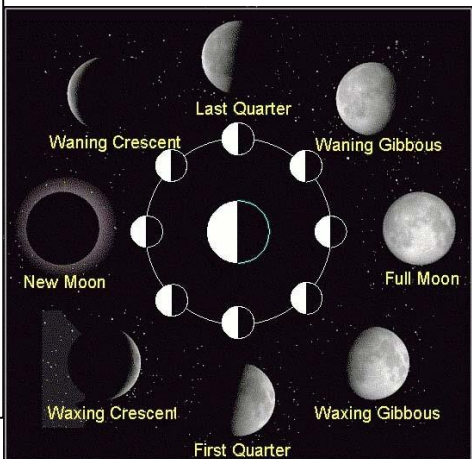
# Journey into the unknown

## Scientific Facts

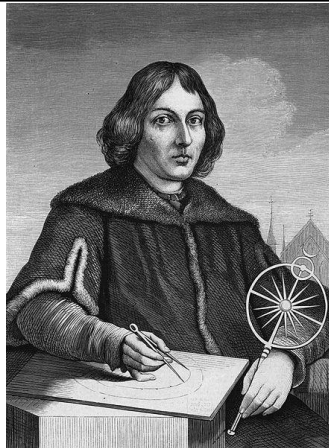
- Earth orbits Sun in  $365 \frac{1}{4}$  days
- It takes 24 hours for Earth to rotate on its axis
- The moon orbits the Earth. It takes 27 days
- Sun, Earth and Moon are almost spherical
- The solar system consists of the Sun and eight official planets (at least three "dwarf planets") that orbit the Sun
- Unsupported objects fall towards the Earth because of the force of gravity

## Scientific Vocabulary

- **Rotation** - the action of rotating about an axis or centre.
- **Axis** - an imaginary line about which a body rotates.
- **Equator** - a line notionally drawn on the earth equidistant from the poles
- **Hemisphere** - a half of a sphere.
- **Orbit** - the curved path of a celestial object or spacecraft round a star, planet, or moon,
- **Geocentric** - having or representing the earth as the centre
- **Heliocentric** - having or representing the sun as the centre, as in the accepted astronomical model of the solar system.



**Nicolaus Copernicus**  
 - 19 February 1473 – 24 May 1543  
 - He was an astronomer.  
 - His main idea was that our world is heliocentric (helios = sun).  
 - His theory was that the sun is in the middle of the solar system, and the planets go around it



## Historic Vocabulary



- **Era** - a long and distinct period of history.
- **Palaeolithic** - relating to or denoting the early phase of the Stone Age, lasting about 2.5 million years,
- **Mesolithic** - relating to or denoting the middle part of the Stone Age,
- **Neolithic** - relating to or denoting the later part of the Stone Age
- **Prehistoric** - relating to or denoting the period before written records.
- **Chronology** - the arrangement of events or dates in the order of their occurrence.
- **Homo sapiens** - the primate species to which modern humans belong

