

Directions: Match each word with its definition. Write the correct letter in the blank.

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| 1. Heliocentric _____ | a. When Earth is in between the moon and the sun |
| 2. Theory _____ | b. The Earth-centered theory of the universe |
| 3. Observatory _____ | c. The Sun-centered model of the universe |
| 4. Solar system _____ | d. Someone who studies space |
| 5. Lunar eclipse _____ | e. An idea that can be tested |
| 6. Astronomer _____ | f. The sun and everything that orbits around it |
| 7. Universe _____ | g. A place with a great view for observing nature |
| 8. Ptolemy _____ | h. Everything that exists anywhere in space |
| 9. Geocentric _____ | i. A mathematician who had a geocentric theory |
| 10. Axis _____ | j. The Greek word for "planet" |
| 11. Wanderer _____ | k. Copernicus' short book that outlined his theory |
| 12. Little Commentary _____ | l. A real or imagined line through the center of an object |

Directions: Answer the following questions using complete sentences.

13. In your own words, explain why a geocentric theory of the universe did not make sense to Copernicus.



14. Discuss the idea that we should “let evidence—not popularity—determine the truth.”

15. Draw, color, and label a simple model of our heliocentric solar system. Use the displayed graphic for reference.

Copernicus | Answer Key

Directions: Match the correct answers by writing the correct letter in the blank.

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|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. Heliocentric <u>c</u> | a. When Earth is in between the moon and the sun |
| 2. Theory <u>e</u> | b. The Earth-centered theory of the universe |
| 3. Observatory <u>g</u> | c. The Sun-centered model of the universe |
| 4. Solar system <u>f</u> | d. Someone who studies space |
| 5. Lunar eclipse <u>a</u> | e. An idea that can be tested |
| 6. Astronomer <u>d</u> | f. The sun and everything that orbits around it |
| 7. Universe <u>h</u> | g. A place with a great view for observing nature |
| 8. Ptolemy <u>i</u> | h. Everything that exists anywhere in space |
| 9. Geocentric <u>b</u> | i. A mathematician who had a geocentric theory |
| 10. Axis <u>l</u> | j. The Greek word for “planet” |
| 11. Wanderer <u>j</u> | k. Copernicus’ short book, outlining his theory |
| 12. Little Commentary <u>k</u> | l. A real or imagined line through the center of an object |

Directions: Answer the following questions using complete sentences.

13. In your own words, explain why the geocentric theory of the universe did not make sense to Copernicus.

The geocentric theory didn't take into account that stars are much farther away from us than the planets. If they were circling us like planets, they would have to be moving incredibly fast. The geocentric theory also concluded that sometimes, the planets change direction in the night sky, but this is not true. The theory assumed that planets travel around the Earth in a perfect circle, which could not be explained.

14. Discuss the idea that we should “let evidence—not popularity—determine the truth.”

Ideas aren't correct simply because everyone believes them. We should all do our own research, test our theories, and let evidence—not popularity—determine the truth.

15. Draw, color, and label a simple model of our heliocentric solar system. Use the displayed graphic for reference.

The diagram should include every element of the displayed graphic, colored and labeled.