

## 'BECAUSE I SAID SO!'/ TIME LINE EXTENSION LESSON 4 AND 5

Time line extension

Put the cards along a time line of dates.

Look out for clusters of cards when ideas changed quickly.

**John Napier** 1550-1617  
(Scottish)

Mathematician who invented logarithms which were used to solve the equations for planetary orbits.

**Galileo Galilei** 1562-1642 (Italian)

Built his own telescope. Supported Copernicus' view of the Universe. Dropped objects from the top of the Leaning Tower of Pisa. Was arrested for his views and spent many years under house arrest.

**Johannes Kepler** 1571-1630  
(German)

Calculated the most accurate tables of astronomy known so far. Realised the orbits of the planets round the Sun are not circles but ellipses. Designed the astronomical telescope.

**Sir Isaac Newton** 1643-1727  
(English)

Showed that white light is made of a spectrum of colours. Invented the reflecting telescope. Described three laws of motion. Explained the orbits of comets.

**Clyde Tombaugh** 1906-1997  
(American)

Discovered Pluto after many years observing.

**Edmund Halley** 1656-1742  
(English)

Calculated that a comet would keep coming back at regular intervals, predicting correctly when this would be. This is Halley's comet.

**Abu'l-Wafa** 940-998 AD  
(Iranian)

Built an observatory in Baghdad. Investigated the orbit of the Moon. His observations of stars were used by many later astronomers.

**Johannes Kepler** 1571-1630  
(German)

Calculated the most accurate tables of astronomy known so far. Realised the orbits of the planets round the Sun are not circles but ellipses. Designed the astronomical telescope.

**Roger Bacon** 1214-1294  
(English)

Made lenses and mirrors and designed a telescope. Planned his experiments (scientific method).

**Georg Peurbach** 1423-1461  
(Austrian)

Believed the motions of the planets are controlled by the Sun. Observed Halley's comet.

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**Nicolaus Copernicus** 1473-1543  
(Polish)

Built an observatory. Set out his theory of the Universe with the Sun at the centre of the Universe.

**Pythagoras** 569-475 BC  
(Greek)

Taught that the Earth is a sphere at the centre of the Universe. Proved that the Earth is round from eclipse shadows and the presence of elephants.

**Tsu Ch'ung Chi** 430-501 AD  
(Chinese)

Determined the precise time of the solstices by careful measurement of the shadows at noon.

**Aryabhata** 476-550 AD  
(Indian)

Believed the orbits of the planets are ellipses. Explained the causes of eclipses correctly.

**Hypatia** 370-415 AD  
(Egyptian)

First woman to make a substantial contribution to mathematics. Wrote books on astronomy.

**Zhang Heng** 78-139 AD  
(Chinese)

Described the positions of the stars. Corrected the calendar to bring it into line with the seasons.

**John Adams** 1819-1892  
(English)

Predicted the position of the then unknown planet Neptune from calculations of the irregular orbit of Uranus. A French astronomer, Le Verrier, found Neptune.

**Edwin Hubble** 1889-1953  
(American)

Founder of observational cosmology and explorer of the distant cosmos. Classified galaxies. Found evidence that the Universe is expanding.

**Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar** 1910-1995  
(Born in India but worked in England and America)

Won the Nobel Prize for work on the structure and evolution of stars.

**Sir Fred Hoyle** 1915-2001  
(English)

Worked on the theory of the structure of stars and the origins of the chemical elements in stars.

**Jocelyn Bell Burnell** 1943-  
(Irish)

Discovered pulsars (rotating stars that give out pulses of radio waves). She has received many awards for her astronomical observations.