



Art Time Copernicus and His World

Nicolaus Copernicus was a Polish scientist who lived from 1473—1543. At that time, people thought the Earth was at the center of the Universe and the Sun, other planets, and all the stars orbited the Earth. Copernicus disagreed with this model and said the Sun was in the center and was orbited by the Earth and planets. His ideas lead the way for future scientists like Johannes Kepler, Galileo, and Isaac Newton to understand and describe the motions of the planets.

Copernicus was born at a very exciting time - the end of the Middle Ages and the beginning of the Renaissance. The first printing press had been invented not long before his birth. Up until that point, all books had to be hand written and copied. That was a long and difficult process so only the very wealthy and those in power had access to the books. The printing press changed that! More people could have access to books, to knowledge.

One of the first books published was the Gutenberg Bible in 1455. When printing the Bible, space would be left at certain places in the text for artists to add flair. See how these pages were decorated after printing? This was called *illumination* or *illuminated text*. The artists who would decorate the books were called *illuminators*. You can find more information by looking up *illuminated letters*.



Learn more about the years Copernicus was living by creating some art of his time.



Choose one of the 8 planets to learn more about. Write a paragraph about that planet. Leave room at the beginning of the paragraph so you can *illuminate the first letter*. The paragraph should include your planet's position from the Sun and at least one interesting fact about it.


