

To Infinity and Beyond...

- Nicolaus Copernicus is called the father of modern astronomy. His understanding of the solar system paved the way for all astronomers who followed.
- Tycho Brahe lived before the invention of the telescope. He observed the sky with the naked eye and recorded precise data on the motions of the planets.
- Galileo Galilei used the telescope to observe Venus. His interpretation of this planet's phases led to a greater understanding of the solar system in general.
- Edmund Halley was the first to discover that some comets appear regularly in the sky. In 1705, he showed that the comet now called Halley's Comet returns every 75 or 76 years.
- William Herschel discovered Uranus and became the first modern astronomer to discover a new planet. He was the first to work out the approximate shape of the galaxy. He found hundreds of new star clusters and nebulae.
- Yuri Gagarin became the first man in space on April 12, 1961.
- Alan Shephard became the first American in space on May 5, 1961.
- John Glenn became the first American to orbit the Earth on February 20, 1962.
- Edward White became the first American to walk in space on June 5, 1965.
- Neil Armstrong became the first man to set foot on the moon on July 20, 1969.