

# Timeline

c. 600 BCE –	Philosophers, including Thales of Miletus, suggest that natural phenomena can be explained and understood by humans.
c. 350 BCE –	Aristotle proposes a geocentric model of the Universe.
c. 280 BCE –	Aristarchus proposes an early heliocentric model of the Universe.
150 CE –	Ptolemy extends Aristotle’s model to incorporate existing data.
1543 –	Copernicus publishes a heliocentric model of the Universe.
1609 –	Kepler publishes his first two laws of planetary motion.
1610 –	Galileo observes the motion of sunspots across the surface of the Sun.
1619 –	Kepler publishes his third law of planetary motion.
1632 –	Galileo publishes support of the Copernican heliocentric model.
1687 –	Newton publishes the <i>Principia</i> , containing three laws of motion and the law of universal gravitation.
1781 –	William Herschel discovers Uranus using a telescope.
1801 –	Sicilian astronomer Giuseppi Piazzi discovers Ceres, the largest known asteroid.
1868 –	Helium is detected as an unknown element in spectral lines from the Sun.
1872 –	Henry Draper photographs the stellar spectrum of Vega, the first of its kind.
1911 –	Hertzsprung and Russell introduce H-R diagrams.
1924 –	Edwin Hubble develops a galaxy classification scheme.
1930 –	American astronomer Clyde Tombaugh discovers Pluto.
1931 –	Karl Jansky discovers radio waves originating from the Milky Way.
1943 –	Seyfert galaxies, a type of active galaxy, are first described.
1957 –	October 4: The Soviet Union launches <i>Sputnik 1</i> , the first artificial satellite.
1958 –	January 31: The United States launches satellite <i>Explorer 1</i> .
1961 –	April 12: Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin becomes the first person in space.
1961 –	May 20: American astronaut Alan Shepard achieves spaceflight.