

By: Turri

Nicolaus Copernicus

Who

Was He

Nicolaus Copernicus was born in Torun, which is located in modern day Poland. He studied in Poland, and Italy. He was a mathematician, astronomer, and an expert in canon law, the law of the church.

What

DID HE DO

Nicolaus Copernicus developed the idea of heliocentrism. Although the idea was first developed by the ancient Greeks, Copernicus' work was completely independent. Heliocentrism is the idea that the sun is the centre of the solar system, and that the earth is round. He published a book, called *De revolutionibus orbium coelestium*. His works inspired Galileo Galilei, another famous astronomer from the Renaissance.

Controversy

When Copernicus first published his book, it was only mildly controversial. Some people opposed it, but it was mostly accepted by the Catholics. 73 years later, the Catholic Church decided it was heresy, and banned the book in 1616. The ban lasted until 1835.

How

DID IT AFFECT US

One major thing that heliocentrism affected was . Without heliocentrism, he wouldn't have gone on his journey where he discovered the Americas, even if he was trying to go to India. This means that the Americas wouldn't have been colonized by the Europeans. It was also incredibly important in astronomy, for obvious reasons.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Nicolaus Copernicus was an incredibly smart and talented individual. He developed the idea of Heliocentrism, which not only affected our perception of the solar system, but also the earth.