

Nicolaus Copernicus

(Mikolaj Kopernik)

Nicolaus Copernicus was born in Poland. He is a famous astronomer. An astronomer is someone who studies the stars, planets and solar system. Copernicus lived over 500 years ago! He was born in the year 1495.

Nicolaus Copernicus made a very important discovery. He discovered that the earth and all of the planets revolve around the sun. Before Copernicus discovery astronomers believed that the Earth was the center of the universe and the sun and planets revolved around it. Astronomers are very thankful to Nicolaus Copernicus and his great discovery. Today he is called the Father of Modern Astronomy.

1. Describe what an astronomer does. _____

2. What country was Nicolaus Copernicus born in? _____

3. How many years ago did Copernicus live? _____

4. Nicolaus Copernicus made a big discovery. What was it?

5. Nicolaus Copernicus is called the _____

Role Play Activity

To help students remember Copernicus' discovery assign nine students to represent planets and the rest will be the sun. Have the planets walk around the sun. Then mix up the earth, planets and sun to show how astronomers believed the universe looked BEFORE Copernicus' discovery!