Case Details

Case Title:

Trial by jury - the great solar system debate

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Grade Level(s):

Middle School

Subject(s):

Earth Science

Summary:

Does the Earth stand still while everything revolves around it? The courtroom is noisy with chants of heresy, and arguments. The judge enters & The lawyers for Copernicus, Ptolemy are ready to deliberate. Which view of the solar system is valid?

Suggested Citation:

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Learning Objectives:

1. Identify Copernicus, Galileo, Ptolemy and Kepler. Explain their respective contributions to astronomy.
2. Identify and chart the phases of the moon.
3. Compare and contrast the geocentric and heliocentric views of the solar system.
4. Define orbit and explain how planets in our solar system stay in orbit.

National/State Standards:

Georgia Performance Standards

S6CS1. Students will evaluate the importance of curiosity, honesty, openness, and skepticism in science. (NSES Content Standard A)

S6CS5. Students will use the ideas of system model, change, and scale in exploring scientific and technological matters.

S6E1: Students will explore current scientific view of the universe and how those views evolved. (NSES Content Standard D) a. Relate the Nature of Science to the progression of basic historical scientific theories (geocentric and heliocentric) as they describe our solar system and the Big Bang as it describes the formation of the

universe. b. Explain that gravity is the force that governs the motion in the solar system.