

DUENDE: DRAMA & LITERATURE

**Teachers' Guide to
"The Starry Messenger: A Tale of the Father of Science"**

Have your students work with their Social Science texts or other resources to answer these questions before they actually see the play:

- What was the popular view of the relationship between the sun and the Earth at the time of Galileo?
- What theory proposed by Copernicus did Galileo adopt?
- With which institution did Galileo come into conflict? Why?

After the play, pose the following questions for discussion:

- Why did the Church react differently to Galileo than to Copernicus?
- Why did Galileo retract his statements about the sun being the center of the universe?
- "The Starry Messenger" - Why do you think the playwright chose this title?

For a web search activity, have your students go to <http://galileo.rice.edu/> to find the answers to the following questions:

- What first triggered Galileo's interest in pendulums?
- In the 16th and 17th Centuries, why did many young girls, like Galileo's daughter, enter the convent?
- What was Galileo's role in the development of the telescope?
- How did Galileo's telescope change the popular perception of the moon?
- Why was the creation of the telescope important?

Have students go to <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/galileo/>

- Here they will find great interactive materials.
- Here you will also find support materials for the video about Galileo produced for WGBH TV. Questions and ideas written by a teacher are included.