

## Who invented the telescope?

The invention of the telescope was a major advance in the science of Astronomy, but who invented it? Maybe you think you already know the answer.

Well, what would you say if I told you that you're probably wrong? After all, it was Galileo Galilei who invented it, right? You might be surprised by the answer to that question. Although Galileo Galilei was a great astronomer, he didn't invent the telescope.

### **If not Galileo, then who?**

A man named Hans Lipperhey invented the telescope. He was born in Wesel, Germany and made his home in Middleburg, part of the Zeeland province in the Netherlands. He was married there in 1594, and became a citizen in 1602. He was a spectacle-maker by trade.

The Italians developed new glass-making techniques which were introduced to the Netherlands in the 1590's. These new techniques helped to bring about new ideas and innovations in the glass-making community and people started to experiment with different ways to combine lenses.

### **Where is the proof?**

Many other people claim to have invented the telescope, but Hans Lipperhey is the only person documented to have applied for a patent for the device.

### **Child's play**

Legend has it that it wasn't Hans himself, but his children who actually invented the telescope while they were playing.

So now you know the story of the telescope and how it came to be.

## About the Author

[Astronomy For Kids Online](#)

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