

Chapter 18

Use with Section 4

ENRICHMENT**• Microscopes, Telescopes,
and Cameras****Telescopes Then and Now**

Who invented the telescope? Many people might answer Galileo, but the first telescope was probably made in 1608 by a Dutch eyeglass maker named Hans Lippershey. Galileo built his own first telescope in 1609, and he was one of the first people to use a telescope to study the skies. Up to that point, telescopes had been used primarily as military instruments. Galileo's discoveries changed people's understanding of the universe. He discovered that the moon has a mountainous and cratered surface, and he discovered four moons of Jupiter. He also saw evidence that the theory proposed by Nicolaus Copernicus, that Earth revolved around the sun, was true.

Telescopes have come a long way since Galileo's time. Galileo used a refracting telescope, but most modern research telescopes are reflecting telescopes. They allow scientists to see farther into the galaxy. With the building and launch into orbit of the Hubble Space Telescope, scientists are now able to see deeper into space because the view through this telescope is not distorted by the atmosphere.

1. Why do you think Galileo is often credited with inventing the first telescope?

2. How have telescopes changed since Galileo's time, and how have these changes helped scientists learn more about the universe?
