**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Band: \_\_\_\_\_**

**A Scientist Challenges the Church**

**DIRECTIONS: Actively read trial of Galileo Galilei. Label where you see the following enduring issues this best associates with is (check all that apply):**

* **CHANGE (CH)**
* **CONFLICT (CON)**
* **POWER (P)**
* **TECHNOLOGY (T)**

 **Then list and explain the perspectives of the Roman Catholic Church vs. Galileo as well as how perspectives changed over time.**

****

During the European Middle Ages, people had been taught that life on earth was not as important as life after death. By the 1300s and 1400s, however, this outlook was changing. Many people were living better. They were looking forward to a good life on earth rather than later. In the 1500s and 1600s, daring scientists had new ideas about how to study and understand the world. They challenged what the ancient writers and the Catholic Church had said about the workings of the universe. These scientists looked around them. They observed nature, saw how people lived, and learned that the earth moved around the sun. They asked questions and searched for answers. Sometimes they found the answers. If they did not they kept searching. One of these searchers for truth was **Galileo Galilei**,who made several important discoveries.

*In the selection that follows, Galileo is about to appear before the* ***Inquisition (judicial system of the Roman Catholic Church)*** *to explain his discoveries. This court seeks to uphold the teachings of the Catholic Church.*

**Rome 1633**

*To think that I have come to this! If I do not admit that I am wrong. I will be executed! I will be remembered for all time as a* ***heretic*** *(a person who does not agree with the churches’ teachings), who denied the truth of the teachings of the Church. Yet, I, Galileo Galilei, have always been faithful to my Church and to the discoveries of science. Now I am told that I cannot believe in both science and God.*

*The Church says that the earth is the center of the universe. I know better. I have read and tested the theories of Copernicus. A hundred years ago, he proved by mathematics that the earth moves around the sun. I made my own telescope because I wanted to test his ideas. People asked how the astronomy of the Bible could be wrong. It was an insane idea to think that the teachings of the Church have been false for so many centuries. But my eyes did not betray me. Copernicus was right. The earth is not the center of the universe. How excited I was when I saw the rings of Saturn, the moons of Jupiter, and the countless stars of the Milky Way. These were my eyes, my telescope, making my discoveries!*

*We know the things we can see and prove. Is there any other possibility? There cannot be. Perhaps I was wrong to think that I could know more than the great scholars of my Church. If it is true that we are made in God’s image, then we must be at the center of the universe. Are there not mysteries and spirits that we cannot understand? Only God knows all. The leaders of his Church can explain the meaning of life to us. That is what I am supposed to believe. But in my heart of hearts I know that there is much to be discovered and explored. No one, not even the holy Church, knows that answers to all the mysteries!*

*If we are to find the answer to the riddle of the universe, we must never stop looking. We must experiment and experience as much as we can. Blind faith is not my way of life. I cannot accept whatever I am told simply because it has been said by the Church.*

*Enough of these wandering thoughts! I must make up my mind. I know that I can faith in my God and still search for answers. The Church fathers do not agree. They say I must give up my search for learning, destroy my book, agree that the sun moves around the earth. They want me to stop my experiments and accept the ways of God and of the Church. I don’t want to accept blindly, but if I am to see another sunrise I must give in. I must pretend to believe. I wonder, is it better to live a lie than to die and face the unknown?*

Postscript:

To save his life, Galileo told the judges of the Inquisition that the earth was the center of the universe. However as he left the courtroom, he whispered, “all the same, the earth does move.” Galileo was placed under arrest at his home in Arcetri, near the city of Florence, and remained there until his death in 1642.

**Q1. What is the *perspective* of Galileo on science and the earth?**  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Q2.** **What is the *perspective* of Roman Catholic Church on science and the earth?**  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**CONTINUE ON THE BACK🡪**

**The Washington Post—VATICAN FINDS GALILEO 'NOT GUILTY'**

By William D. Montalbano

**November 1, 1992VATICAN CITY, OCT. 31** -- It's official: The Earth revolves around the sun, even for the Vatican.

The Roman Catholic Church has admitted to erring (making a mistake) these past 359 years in formally condemning Galileo Galilei for formulating scientific theories it considered heresy.

Pope John Paul II himself attended a meeting today of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences to help set the record straight on behalf of the 17th-century Italian mathematician, astronomer and physicist who was the first man to use a telescope and who is remembered as one of history's greatest scientists.

"The underlying problems of this case concern both the nature of science and the message of faith," the pope noted. "One day we may find ourselves in a similar situation, which will require both sides to have an informed awareness of the field and of the limits of their own competencies (abilities)."

Thirteen years after its appointment, a commission of historic, scientific and theological inquiry brought the pope a "not guilty" finding for Galileo, who in 1633, at age 69, was forced to repent by the Roman Inquisition and spent the last eight years of his life under house arrest.

The commission found that Galileo's clerical judges acted in good faith but rejected his theories because they were "incapable of dissociating faith from an age-old cosmology" -- the biblical vision of the Earth as the center of the universe. "God fixed the Earth upon its foundation, not to be moved forever," says one Bible verse contradicted by Galileo's pioneering theory that the Earth spins daily on its axis and makes an annual journey around the sun.

Unable to comprehend a non-literal reading of Scripture, according to the commission, the judges feared that if Galileo's ideas were taught, they would undermine Catholic tradition at a time when it was under attack by Protestant reformers such as Martin Luther and John Calvin.

"This subjective error of judgment, so clear to us today, led them to a disciplinary measure from which Galileo 'had much to suffer.' These mistakes must be frankly recognized," Cardinal Paul Poupard, the commission chairman, told the pope.

Galileo was tried on "vehement suspicion of heresy." To save his life, he was forced to swear that he "abjured, cursed and detested" the errors of his work, which extended the findings of the Polish astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus that the Earth moves. Legend insists that as he concluded his confession to the black-cowled inquisitors, Galileo muttered under his breath: "Nevertheless, it does move."

It took the church two centuries to begin to come to grips with Galileo's ideas: His "Dialogues Concerning the Two Chief World Systems" was not removed from the Index of Prohibited Books until 1835. Both John Paul and the investigatory mission had offered partial rehabilitations for Galileo in recent years.

The case was important, John Paul said today, because over the centuries it had become "the symbol of the church's supposed rejection of scientific progress."

"A tragic mutual incomprehension has been interpreted as the reflection of a fundamental opposition between science and faith. The clarifications furnished by recent historical studies enable us to state that this sad misunderstanding now belongs to the past," the pope said today.

**How did the *perspective* of the Roman Catholic Church on science and Galileo change over time?**  \_\_\_\_\_

**The enduring issue this best associates with is (check all that apply):**

* **CHANGE**
* **CONFLICT**
* **POWER**
* **TECHNOLOGY**