

Galileo was a **starry** eyed child . He often imagined **himself** flying through the clouds . He was sent away to school to become a doctor , but he did not learn **easily** His favourite subject was mathematics . He believed that it could be a key to **understanding** the world around him . At the age of eighteen , Galileo made his first discovery. He was in a **church** when he heard a strange noise . He noticed that an oil lamp was **swinging** backwards and forwards . He also heard the lamp's **chain** hitting against the wall , and it seemed to him that they were both **moving** at the same time . 'Am I only dreaming again ?' he wondered . But he hurried home to find out if what he thought was true.

He took two pieces of lead that were of the same weight and tied them to two ropes of **equal** length . He fixed the ropes to a chair . He gave his father one **rope** to hold at the end with the weight; he held the other rope **higher** than his father's . They let go of the weights at the same time and then **counted** the number of swings backwards and forwards . Both father and son reached one hundred together . 'Father' , shouted Galileo . ' Don't you see ? My rope was further up than yours but they both arrived at the same point at the same time . The old **Italian** man could not know then that his son had just **discovered** a great fact . Nor did he know that , for hundreds of years , men would use his **knowledge** to measure time on a clock and to watch the stars and sun moving in the sky .

To Galileo , it was only the **beginning** .Next , he said that two different weight **fall** together if they come down from the same height . ' Not possible !' his friends said . ' Everyone knows that a **penny** falls faster than a feather !' . 'Follow me and I will show you , ' commanded Galileo . And up to the **top** of the Tower of Pisa he climbed . He **carried** a ball in each hand , but one was ten times as heavy as the other . He let go of them at the same time ground **together** .They had just seen something they could not believe !

For the rest of his life he worked to make things that the **whole** world uses and enjoys today . He made a **compass** to point in the direction in which a person is traveling relative to the North . He used a **magnet** to explain many things about the Earth . He **measured** the temperature of air with a thermometer Finally , he proved to the world that the **Earth** and all other stars move around the sun . which is at the centre . To do this , he built a **telescope** through which he could study the stars , the sun and the moon . From a boy who sad science in his **blood** and stars in his eyes , he grew to be a great man who opened the beauties of the heavens to people on Earth.