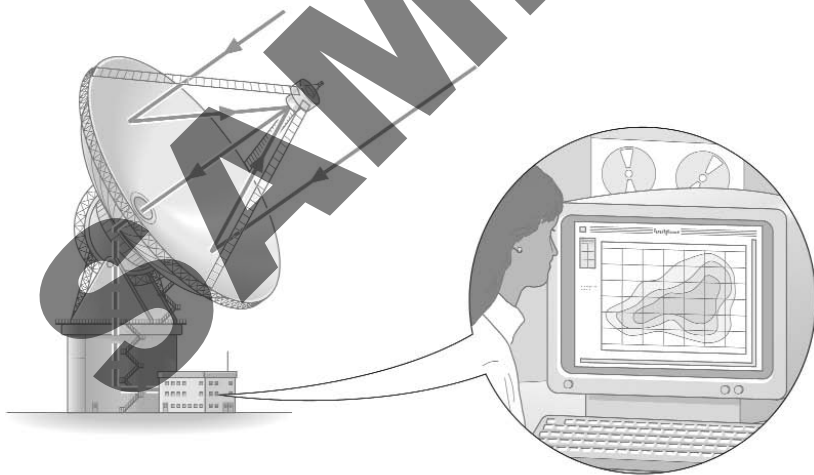


★ GREAT ASTRONOMERS

Jenny Armstrong and Mike Roberts



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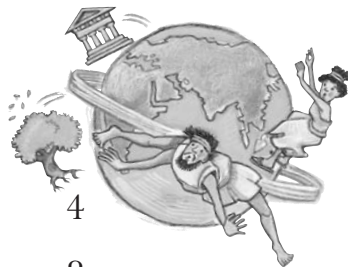
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Introduction

When we look up into the night sky, we see, more or less, the same things as people who lived 10,000 years ago, or even one million years ago. Even though our picture is very similar to theirs, our understanding of it is completely different.

In the ancient world, people believed that the Earth was the center of the universe. They used the stars to monitor the seasons, to help them navigate the seas, and to predict what was going to happen on Earth. The ancient Egyptians noticed that the stars moved in a regular pattern every 365 days,



A pair of ordinary modern binoculars is more powerful than Galileo's strongest telescope.

so they divided up their calendar year into 365 days.

Today, we know that Earth is just one planet in one solar system in one galaxy in the whole universe. We have also learned that the universe is enormous and expanding; the vast distances between stars can be measured in light-years, and what we see is just a tiny fraction of what is actually out there.



The remains of Stonehenge in England. Many people believe the prehistoric stone circles were set up to track movements of the Sun and Moon, and also the seasons.