Galileo and His Telescope
Cross-Curricular Focus: Physical Science

Name: _____

Answer the following questions based on the reading passage. Don't forget to go back to the passage whenever necessary to find or confirm your answers.

Galileo Galilei was born in the year 1564. He was born in the town of Pisa, in what is now Italy. When he was 20 years old, he was studying in Pisa. His father wanted him to be a doctor. Galileo was bored with school. The only subject he really liked was math. Because he was doing well in math, the court mathematician offered to tutor him privately He said he could become a qualified mathematician. Galileo's father was disappointed, but he agreed.

Because he needed to earn money, Galileo began experimenting with different things. He tried to come up with an invention he could sell for money. He had some success with one invention. It was like a compass that could be used to measure land. He experimented with pendulums, thermometers, and magnets.

He heard that a Dutch inventor had invented something called a spyglass. The inventor was trying to keep it a secret. Galileo decided to work on one of his own. Within 24 hours, he had invented a **telescope.** It could **magnify** things to make them appear ten times larger than real life. One night, he pointed his telescope toward the sky. He made his first of many space observations. Everyone thought the moon was smooth. Galileo saw that it wasn't. The moon was covered in bumps and craters.

As technology has improved, Galileo and many others have made improvements on the telescope. Today, the telescope is a wonderful device that lets us see objects far, far away.

1) Galileo's father was disappointed when he became a mathematician. What did he want him to be instead?

_____

2) Why did Galileo become an inventor?

_____

3) Where did Galileo get the idea for his telescope?

_____

4) What did Galileo discover about the moon?

_____

_____

5) Do you think Galileo's inventions made a difference in the world? How?

_____

_____

_____

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Actual wording of answers may vary.

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1) Galileo's father was disappointed when he became a mathematician. What did he want him to be instead?
a doctor

2) Why did Galileo become an inventor?
to make money

3) Where did Galileo get the idea for his telescope?
from an inventor who made a spyglass

4) What did Galileo discover about the moon?
It was not smooth, but had bumps and craters.

5) Do you think Galileo's inventions made a difference in the world? How?
student's choice