To Tell the Truth - Galileo

1. In what city were you born and raised?
    a. I was born in the town of Pisa, in Italy, in 1564. In the 1570s at some time, I don't remember when for sure, we moved to Florence.
    b. I was born in Florence, the greatest city in the world. I lived there until I left for Pisa University.
    c. I was born in Venice and moved to Florence when I was very young.

2. Can you tell us about your family?
    a. My father was a musician… a professional I guess. He always told me we were from the nobility but we never had much money to show for it. Maybe he just wasn't very good. Also, I had 6 brothers and sisters but I was the oldest.
    b. I had 4 brothers and sisters and I was in the middle of the ages. We were very poor which is why my father wanted me to become a doctor.
    c. My father played the lute which didn't make us much money. I had only one younger sister which is why I was expected to make money for the family.

3. Tell us about your childhood.
    a. My dad sent me off to a monastery when I was 11 to study but there I realized that I really wanted to become a monk, I loved studying the Bible. Monk's don't make much money though for their families so my dad pulled me out of school and sent me back home.
    b. I was sent to a private school to study medicine so I could make some money for our family. I really didn't like it and I was bored to death. They kicked me out when I was 15 for talking back so often.
    c. I was sent off to a monastery to train to become a priest to support our family. I liked it quite a bit but I got in trouble a few times and I realized being a priest just wasn't for me.

4. What interested you in science?
    a. One day I noticed a pendulum swinging back and forth. I don't know why but I just kept looking at different pendulums. I noticed they always swung at the same speed no matter the size. Scientists were trying to tell me that wasn't true but I could see it right in front of me.
    b. When I was young I got a spyglass toy. It let me see things in a new way and from then on I was very interested in planets and stars. I just kept studying until eventually it was all I did.
    c. Once I realized I wouldn't make a good priest I started looking at other options. I had learned about taking care of people at the monastery and figured I might as well get paid for it. So, I decided to start focusing on science so I could become a doctor.

5. Did you enjoy school?
    a. I hated school, it was soooo boring. I only liked math. Once the school even sent a letter to my parents threatening to kick me out.
    b. I did like school. Math and science were very interesting to me. I was so good at math that I became a math tutor at a young age. I did all kinds of experiments on my own too because learning was all that mattered to me.
    c. Yes, I did. Well, I liked learning at least. I got into many arguments with my teachers about science so I got in trouble often for no reason. I didn't like that part much at all. I did like doing experiments to prove they were wrong though!

6. What did you learn about in school?
    a. I learned all the basics of course. Ridiculous stuff like Aristotle mostly. I did, however, hear about this idea of a scientific method. Some of the professors were starting to observe the world to see what would happen and then doing experiments. That was definitely interesting.
    b. I learned all sorts of things. My focus of course was on math and science but I learned a ton about religion as well. While most of the stuff was older Greek philosophers there were some new ideas bouncing around too.
    c. Most of what I learned I learned on my own using the scientific method. It made sense to do experiments and then observe the results before making a hypothesis.

7. Tell us about your experiments with falling objects.
    a. Aristotle said and the church agreed that heavier objects fell faster than light ones. I thought the size really didn't matter so I tested it out. When I did my test the heavy object actually fell first by a tiny bit. That wasn't too surprising because of the wind currents. I still think I was right.
    b. It was obvious to me and many others that Aristotle was wrong about falling objects. I said there was a force in the universe that pulls on all things equally so objects would fall at the same speed. We tested it by dropping objects from the Tower of Pisa and guess what, I was right! No matter what they weighed or were made of the objects fell at the same rate.
    c. I wanted to show that objects all fall at the same speed so I dropped various sized and weighted objects off the Tower of Pisa. To this day I'm not sure why but the lighter objects kept falling a tiny bit faster than the heavy ones. I still think my theory is correct though!

8. What can you tell us about your telescope?
    a. I heard about a toy in Holland that could help you see farther called a spy glass. I started playing around with it to make it stronger. I flipped the lenses and tried curving them differently. When I was done I could see about twenty times farther than usual.

    b. Like I said I played with a spyglass when I was little. As I got older I figured there must be a way to make it stronger. I started making news lenses and before long I had created the first telescope. It was weird that nobody else at the time thought to do it. I thought it was pretty simple.
    c. This thing was so easy I can't believe nobody else thought of it. I took a children's toy called a spyglass that had two lenses. With it you could see about three times farther than normal. All I did was flip one of the lenses around and I could see twenty times farther! I made a good amount of money off that little invention I must say.

9. What were you able to find with it?
    a. I saw mountains on the moon, the rings of Saturn and four moons around Jupiter. I sketched many of them and wrote a book called The Starry Messenger.
    b. I was able to see the rings of Saturn, moons around Jupiter and many other things nobody had seen before. It was an incredible experience to see these for the first time. I really couldn't even put it in words.
    c. I saw so many new things that I wrote a book about them called "Into the Heavens." I drew sketches of the many things people had never seen before like the surface of the Moon and the rings of Saturn.

10. How were you able to prove the Copernicus' theory about the Sun?
    a. Just so you know, it wasn't just Copernicus who believed that. Pythagorus believed it too, and he is a brilliant mathematician. Anyway, I mapped the moons of Jupiter and showed that they were moving around Jupiter so that meant Earth couldn't be the only thing in the middle.
    b. With my telescope I was able to map the movement of all the planets. It was easy to see that they were not moving in perfect circles around the Earth. Once I had my maps complete it made Copernicus' theory the obvious choice.
    c. My experiments with falling objects and motion proved that things could move even if they didn't feel it. Once I proved that the rest was easy just by showing how things moved on my maps of the stars.

11. You wrote a book about your ideas, what can you tell us about it?
    a. I don't really like to talk about my book; it kind of got me into trouble. It had a super long title anyway so I doubt you'd be interested.
    b. I wrote a book which people called "Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems". That title makes it sound like I was trying to say I was right and the church was wrong but I'm not stupid. I wouldn't want to challenge the church. The real title was much longer and that was only a very small part of it. Anyway, it presents both sides of the argument so I don't know why people got so mad.
    c. My book was called Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems. It was written as an argument between two characters. One represented the church's old ideas and one represented my new scientific ideas.

12. We heard you made some interesting characters in this book.
    a. All I will say is that my character Simplicio was NOT an insult to anyone. The church thought I was calling them simpletons, which is another word for idiot, but really I just named him after a famous philosopher. Oh and um… the last chapter was completely wrong. Oops again!
    b. I don't know what you mean by that question. I mean sure it had characters which I guess is kind of weird for a science book but there was nothing strange about them.
    c. I named the church character Simplicio as a joke. I knew it meant idiot –that was the point, I thought it was funny! Anyone who was still holding on to their old beliefs at this point was just being ridiculous anyway. I was obviously right.

13. How did the church respond?
    a. The church told me I was going against them and not to talk about it at all so I didn't. Then Pope Urban VIII said it was fine so I wrote my book. Next thing I know I'm called to the Inquisition! They asked me "If the Earth was really moving as you say it is, why can't we feel it?"
    b. The church was fine with the book at first then a few priests complained to the Inquisition about it and then they all of a sudden decided it was wrong. They hadn't even said anything to me about it until then.
    c. They didn't really agree with me but it wasn't too big a deal. The pope had my back.

14. So everything was ok then?
    a. Well, like I said, I was called to the Inquisition. They had a trial, if you want to call it that, and decided I was a heretic! Are you kidding me? I wanted to be a monk! They sentenced me to spend the rest of my life in jail.
    b. They called me into the Inquisition and had a trial. They told me to admit I was wrong. I was like "no way, I'm obviously right" and so they put me in jail. I thought the Pope would protect me, I mean come on he was my friend but nope.
    c. Only at first. Before long they were all coming after me. They sentenced me to house arrest for the rest of my life for supposedly going against the church.

15. Can you tell us what happened then?
    a. After a couple years in jail I had gone almost completely blind. The church decided to let me spend the rest of my sentence in my own home under house arrest. Thank goodness my daughter was around to take care of me.
    b. Eventually the church realized I wasn't really a threat and they let me return home but I remained under house arrest.
    c. I spent the rest of my life under house arrest where I continued my experiments. I guess it could have been worse.

Galileo 1

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2. My father was a musician… a professional I guess. He always told me we were from the nobility but we never had much money to show for it. Maybe he just wasn't very good. Also, I had 6 brothers and sisters but I was the oldest.

3. My dad sent me off to a monastery when I was 11 to study but there I realized that I really wanted to become a monk, I loved studying the Bible. Monk's don't make much money though for their families to my dad pulled me out of school and sent me back home.

4. One day I noticed a pendulum swinging back and forth. I don't know why but I just kept looking at different pendulums. I noticed they always swung at the same speed no matter the size. Scientists were trying to tell me that wasn't true but I could see it right in front of me.

5. I hated school, it was soooo boring. I only liked math. Once the school even sent a letter to my parents threatening to kick me out.

6. I learned all the basics of course. Ridiculous stuff like Aristotle mostly. I did, however, hear about this idea of a scientific method. Some of the professors were starting to observe the world to see what would happen and then doing experiments. That was definitely interesting.

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9. I saw mountains on the moon, the rings of Saturn and four moons around Jupiter.

10. Just so you know, it wasn't just Copernicus who believed that. Pythagorus believed it too, and he is a brilliant mathematician. Anyway, I mapped the moons of Jupiter and showed that they were moving around Jupiter so that meant Earth couldn't be the only thing in the middle.

11. I don't really like to talk about my book; it kind of got me into a lot of trouble. Next question!

12. All I will say is that my character Simplicitus was NOT an insult to anyone. The church thought I was calling them simpletons, which is another word for idiot, but really I just named him after a famous philosopher. Oh and um… the last chapter was completely wrong. Oops again!

13. The church told me it was heresy and not to talk about it at all so I didn't. Then Pope Urban VIII said it was fine so I wrote my book. Next thing I know I'm called to the Inquisition! They asked me "If the Earth was really moving as you say it is, why can't we feel it?"

14. Well, like I said, I was called to the Inquisition. They had a trial, if you want to call it that, and decided I was a heretic! Are you kidding me? I wanted to be a monk! They sentenced me to spend the rest of my life in jail.

15. After a couple years in jail I had gone almost completely blind. The church decided to let me spend the rest of my sentence in my own home under house arrest. Thank goodness my daughter was around to take care of me.

Galileo #2

1. I was born in Florence, the greatest city in the world. I lived there until I left for Pisa University.

2. I had 4 brothers and sisters and I was in the middle of the ages. We were very poor which is why my father wanted me to become a doctor.

3. I was sent to a private school to study medicine so I could make some money for our family. I really didn't like it and I was bored to death. They kicked me out when I was 15 for talking back so often.

4. When I was young I got a spyglass a toy. It let me see things in a new way and from then on I was very interested in planets and stars. I just kept studying until eventually it was all I did.

5. I did like school. Math and science were very interesting to me. I was so good at math that I became a math tutor at a young age. I did all kinds of experiments on my own too because learning was all that mattered to me.

6. I learned all sorts of things. My focus of course was on math and science but I learned a ton about religion as well. While most of the stuff was older Greek philosophers there were some new ideas bouncing around too.

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9. I was able to see the rings of Saturn, moons around Jupiter and many other things nobody had seen before. It was an incredible experience to see these for the first time.

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11. I wrote a book which people called "Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems" but that was not the original title. That title makes it sound like I was trying to say I was right and the church was wrong but I'm not stupid. I wouldn't want to challenge the church. The real title was much longer and that was only a very small part of it. Anyway, the book is in four parts and talks about science and philosophy. It presents both sides so I don't know why people got so mad.

12. I don't know what you mean by that question. I mean sure it had characters which I guess is kind of weird for a science book but there was nothing strange about them.

13. The church was fine with the book then a few priests complained to the Inquisition about it and then they all of a sudden decided it was wrong. They hadn't even said anything to me about it until then.

14. They called me into the Inquisition and had a trial. They told me to admit I was wrong. I was like "no way, I'm obviously right" and so they put me in jail. I thought the Pope would protect me, I mean come on he was my friend but nope.

15. Eventually the church realized I wasn't really a threat and they let me return home but I remained under house arrest.

Galileo #3

1. I was born in Venice and moved to Florence when I was very young.

2. My father played the lute which didn't make us much money. I had only one younger sister which is why I was expected to make money for the family.

3. I was sent off to a monastery to train to become a priest to support our family. I liked it quite a bit but I got in trouble a few times and I realized being a priest just wasn't for me.

4. Once I realized I wouldn't make a good priest I started looking at other options. I had learned about taking care of people at the monastery and figured I might as well get paid for well it. So, I decided to start focusing on science so I could become a doctor.

5. Yes, I did. Well, I liked learning at least. I got into many arguments with my teachers about science so I got in trouble often for no reason. I didn't like that part much at all. I did like doing experiments to prove they were wrong though!

6. Most of what I learned I learned on my own using the scientific method. It made sense to do experiments and then observe the results before making a hypothesis.

7. I wanted to show that objects all fall at the same speed so I dropped various sized and weighted objects off the Tower of Pisa. To this day I'm not sure why but the light objects kept falling a tiny bit faster than the heavy ones. I still think my theory is correct though!

8. This thing was so easy I can't believe nobody else thought of it. I took a children's toy called a spyglass that had two lenses. With it you could see about three times farther than normal. All I did was flip one of the lenses around and I could see twenty times farther! I made a good amount of money off that little invention I must say.

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11. My book was called Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems. It was written as an argument between two characters. One represented the church’s old ideas and one represented my new scientific ideas.

12. I named the church character Simplicio as a joke. I knew it meant idiot –that was the point, I thought it was funny! Anyone who was still holding on to their old beliefs at this point was just being ridiculous anyway. I was obviously right.

13. They hauled me right off to the Inquisition that’s how!

14. Nothing happened, they were totally cool. Are you kidding me? What do you think happened? They found me guilty even though I was obviously right and they threw me in jail.

15. I spent the rest of my life under house arrest where I continued my experiments. I guess it could have been worse.