

ILEAD “The Night Sky and You” –Bob Mead  
 Timeline of Astronomy

Era	Culture	Persons	Contributions
<b>Ancient</b>			
250 BC	Greek	Aristarchus	Heliocentric theory
200 BC	“	Eratosthenes	Size of the Earth
200 BC	“	Apollonius	Conic sections
150 BC	“	Hipparchus	Magnitude (brightness), wobble, chords (trig)
150 AD	“	Ptolemy	<i>Almagest</i> , geocentric, Headache #1: epicycles
550 AD	Hindu	Aryabahta	Planet alignment cycles (4.32 bil. yrs.)
600 AD	“	Brahmagupta	Revision of above, number theory for cycles
800	Islam		Star names
850	“	Al-Battani	(Lat. Albategnius) , spherical trig., Alphonsine tbls
1200	Medit.	Fibonacci	Brought Hindu-Arabic learning to Europe
<b>Renaiss.</b>			
1500	Europe	Regiomantus	Studied Albategnius, taught Brudzewski / Novara
1543	“	Copernicus	Student of the above, heliocentric <i>De Revolutionibus</i>
1600	“	Tycho Brahe	Extensive observations and records
1600	“	Kepler	3 laws, Headache #2: why ellipses? Rudolphine tbls.
1600	“	Napier, Briggs	Logarithms save the health of the astronomer, Briggs encourages a practical basis
1609	“	Galileo	Builds a telescope, supports Copernicus
1650	“	Newton, Halley	Uses calculus and classical geom. in <i>Principia</i> . Halley forces the 1686 publication – physical laws
<b>Modern</b>			
1800	Europe	Herschels	Planet Uranus and prediction of Neptune
1850	“	Poincare	3-body problem wins the Oskar
1900	“	Einstein	Spec’l and gen’l relativity refines Newton and creates a new view of the universe.
1919	“	Eddington	Eclipse observation confirms Einstein’s theory
1920	U.S.	Shapely	Estimates Milky Way diameter w/ globular distances, Mt. Wilson
1924	“	Hubble	Using variable stars: Andromeda is another galaxy
1929	“	“	Redshift and distance: the universe is expanding
1969	“	NASA	Moon landing
1990	World	All of us	The internet and information explosion