

## Guide Questions for *Commentariolus*

1. Why does Copernicus propose a new model of the solar system? What does he dislike about the Ptolemaic system? (This is hard, but it is on the first page.)
2. The ancient Greeks built their geo-centric model on the assumption that motions in the heavens had to be circular and constant speed. What does Copernicus believe about the motions of the planets?
3. What were the 7 postulates that Copernicus is assuming for his proposed model? (Try and put these in words that mean something to you.)
4. From the smallest to the largest, what is the order of the "spheres" of the solar system?

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5. Why is postulate #4 important?
6. Copernicus says that the sun is not at the exact center of the earth's orbit. How far away from the center of the earth's orbit is the sun?
7. What does Copernicus propose as the cause of retrograde motion? How does his model differ between the two inner planets and the three outer planets?
8. How many motions does the earth have in his model? What are they?
9. Does the sun play any role in the mechanics of Copernicus' solar system?
10. Why does Copernicus still resort to epicycles in his model of the solar system? (This isn't really in the reading – make a guess, and we will go over it.)