

Ptolemy (Claudius Ptolemaeus)

Encyclopedia Article

Ptolemy (Claudius Ptolemaeus)

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100?-170?

Greek mathematician, astronomer, and geographer whose major work, the *Almagest*, is a large mathematical text that describes the movement of the heavens. A Roman citizen of Greek descent living in Alexandria, Egypt, he was the most influential ancient astronomer. The mathematics used in the *Almagest* is the geometry of Euclid, applied to explain astronomical observations. Ptolemy's ideas dominated astronomy for 14 centuries. He also wrote on other mathematical topics, astrology, and geography.