Cleomedes Encyclopedia Article

Cleomedes

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fl. first century A.D.

Greek astronomer whose *On the Circular Motions of the Celestial Bodies* provides valuable information regarding the work of his more distinguished predecessors. *On the Circular Motions* is made up almost entirely of ideas taken from others, most notably Posidonius (135-51 B.C.), and contains a mixture of accurate and wildly inaccurate data. Of particular interest is the fact that the text serves as the principal source regarding the methodology used by Eratosthenes (c. 285-c. 205 B.C.) in making his famous measurement of Earth's circumference.