

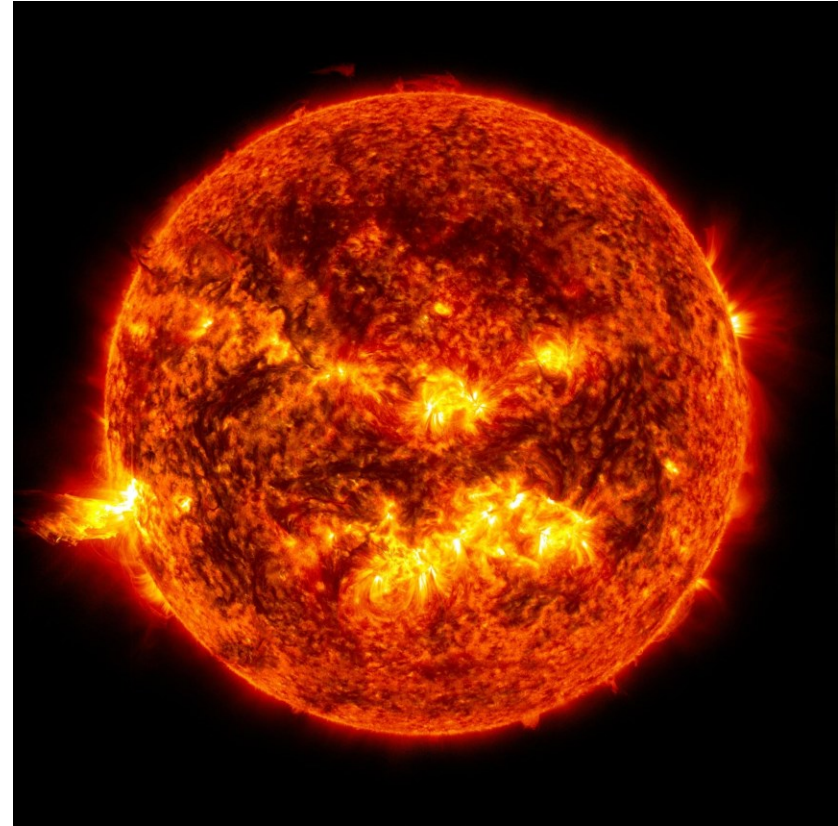


Solar System Fact Files

Support resource

Sun

Star type:	G2 V, yellow dwarf main-sequence star
Size compared to Earth	100 times wider than Earth
Length of day	25 Earth days at the equator and 36 Earth days at the poles.
Length of year	The Sun orbits the centre of the Milky Way every 230 million Earth years.



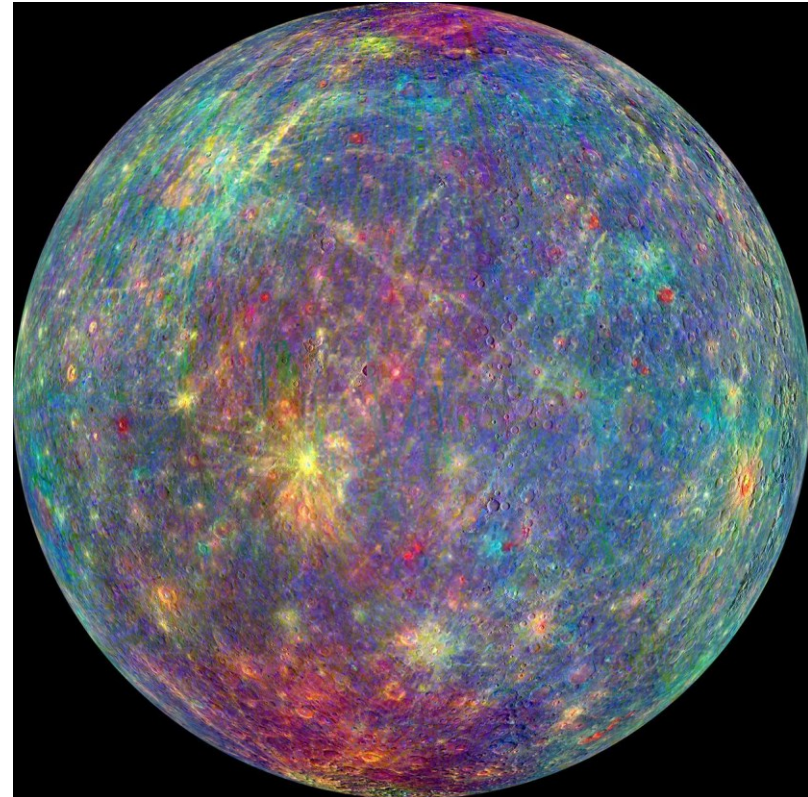
Sun

3 fun facts:

- Our Sun is a 4.5-billion-year-old star, a hot glowing ball at the centre of our solar system.
- The hottest part of the Sun is its core, where temperatures reach 15 million°C.
- You would need 1.3 million Earths to fill the Sun.

Mercury

Distance from Sun	0.4 AU
Size compared to Earth	1/3 size of Earth
Length of day	176 Earth days
Length of year	88 days (less than half a day)



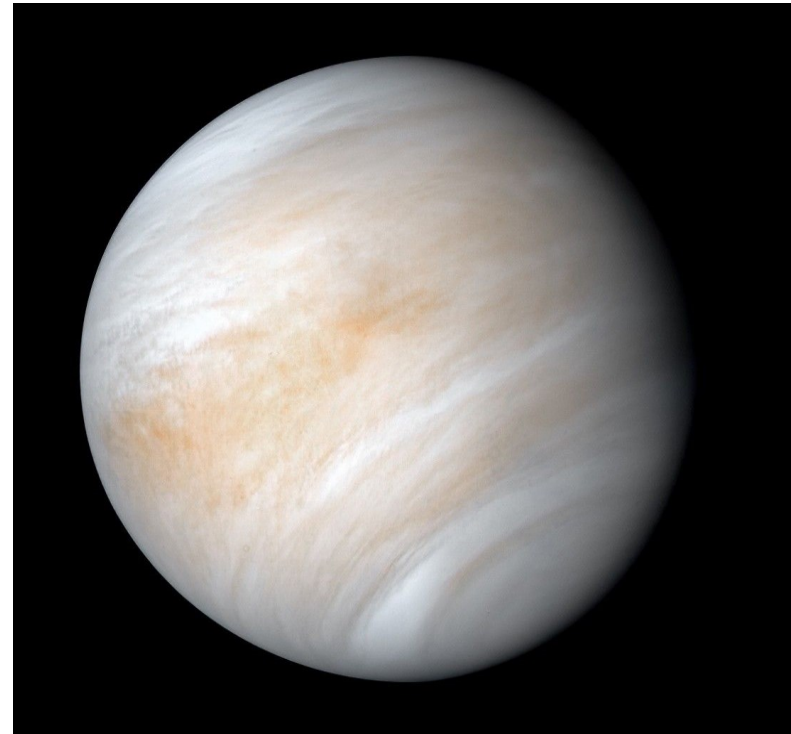
Mercury

3 fun facts:

- Mercury is the smallest planet in our solar system, it's only slightly larger than our Moon.
- From Mercury, the Sun would appear more than three times larger than it does on Earth and the sunlight would be 7 times brighter!
- Mercury is the fastest planet, zipping around the Sun every 88 Earth days. Appropriately named after the swiftest of the ancient Roman gods.

Venus

Distance from Sun	0.72AU
Size compared to Earth	0.95 size of Earth
Length of day	243 Earth days
Length of year	225 earth days



Venus

3 fun facts:

- It's the hottest planet in our solar system due to its thick atmosphere. The surface temperatures hot enough to melt lead.
- Venus is similar in structure and size to Earth and is sometimes called Earth's evil twin.
- Venus is named for the ancient Roman goddess of love and beauty. It's the only planet named after a female god, and most features on the surface are named after women.

Earth

Distance from Sun 1AU

Size compared to Earth 1

Length of day 23.9 hours

Length of year 365.25 days



Earth

3 fun facts:

- It takes about eight minutes for light from the Sun to reach our planet.
- The Moon helps make Earth such a great home. It stabilises our planet's wobble, which has made the climate less variable over thousands of years.
- Earth's crust, goes about 19 miles deep on average on land. At the bottom of the ocean, the crust is thinner and extends about 3 miles from the seafloor to the top of the mantle.

Mars

Distance from Sun	1.5AU
Size compared to Earth	1/2 size of Earth
Length of day	24.6 hours
Length of year	687 Earth days



Mars

3 fun facts:

- Mars was named by the Romans for their god of war because its reddish colour reminded them of blood.
- Mars is home to the largest volcano in the solar system, Olympus Mons. It's three times taller than Earth's Mount Everest.
- Mars has two small moons, Phobos and Deimos. They're potato-shaped because they have too little mass for gravity to make them spherical.

Asteroid Belt

Distance from Sun	2.2-3.2 AU
Size compared to Earth	Various
Smallest asteroid	10m across
Largest asteroid	530km across



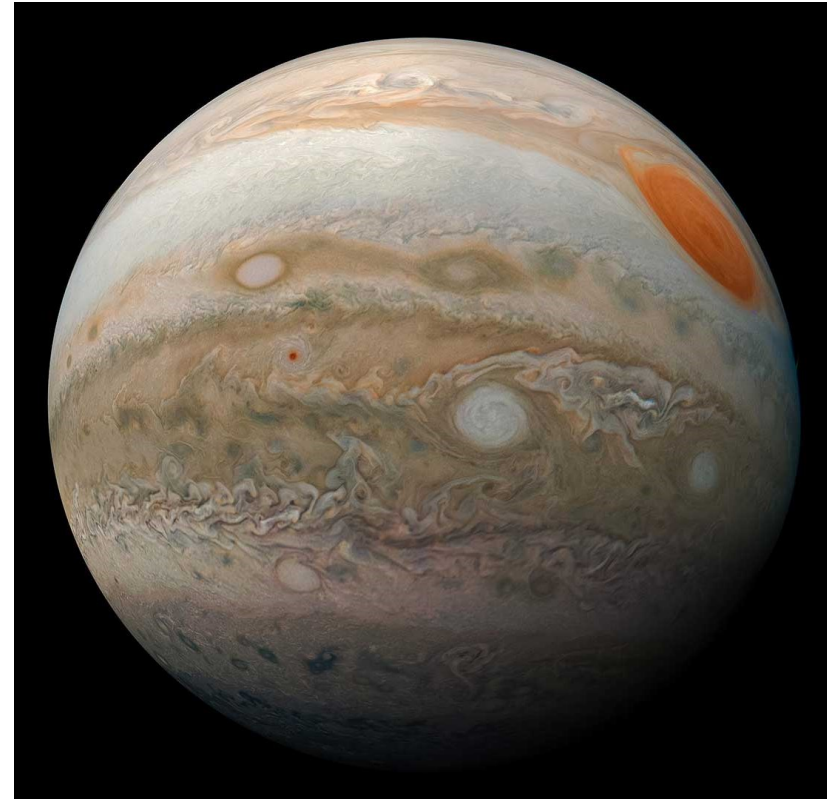
Asteroid Belt

3 fun facts:

- Asteroids are rocky remnants left over from the formation of our solar system 4.6 Billion years ago.
- They are sometimes called the 'minor planets'.
- The belt is estimated to contain between 1.1 and 1.9 million asteroids larger than 1 kilometre in diameter, and millions of smaller ones.
- Smaller pieces are called meteoroids.

Jupiter

Distance from Sun	5.2AU
Size compared to Earth	11 times wider
Length of day	9.9 hours
Length of year	12 Earth years (4,333 Earth days)



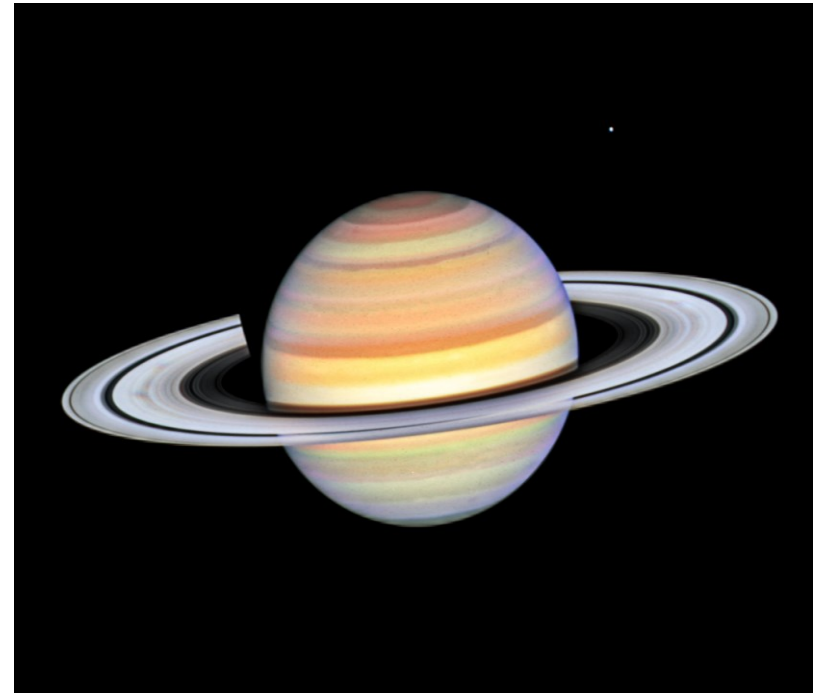
Jupiter

3 fun facts:

- It's the largest planet in our solar system - 1,000 Earths could fit inside Jupiter. If Earth were the size of a grape, Jupiter would be about as big as a basketball.
- Jupiter's iconic Great Red Spot is a giant storm bigger than Earth that has raged for hundreds of years.
- Jupiter has the same ingredients as a star, but it did not grow big enough to set on fire.

Saturn

Distance from Sun	9.5AU
Size compared to Earth	9 times wider
Length of day	10.7 hours
Length of year	29.4 Earth years (10,756 Earth days)



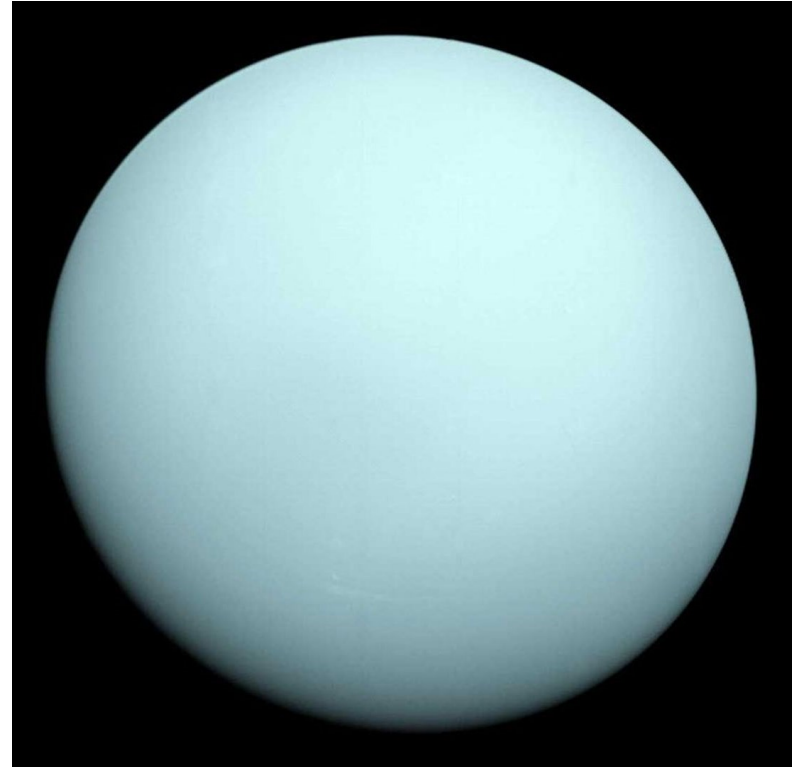
Saturn

3 fun facts:

- Saturn's rings are pieces of comets, asteroids, or shattered moons that broke up before they reached the planet, torn apart by Saturn's powerful gravity
- As a gas giant, Saturn is made up of swirling gases and liquids, so it doesn't have a surface.
- While a spacecraft would have nowhere to land on Saturn, it wouldn't be able to fly through unscathed either - extreme pressures and temperatures deep inside the planet would crush, melt, and vaporize any spacecraft trying to fly into the planet.

Uranus

Distance from Sun	19AU
Size compared to Earth	4 times wider
Length of day	17 hours
Length of year	84 Earth years (30,687 Earth days)



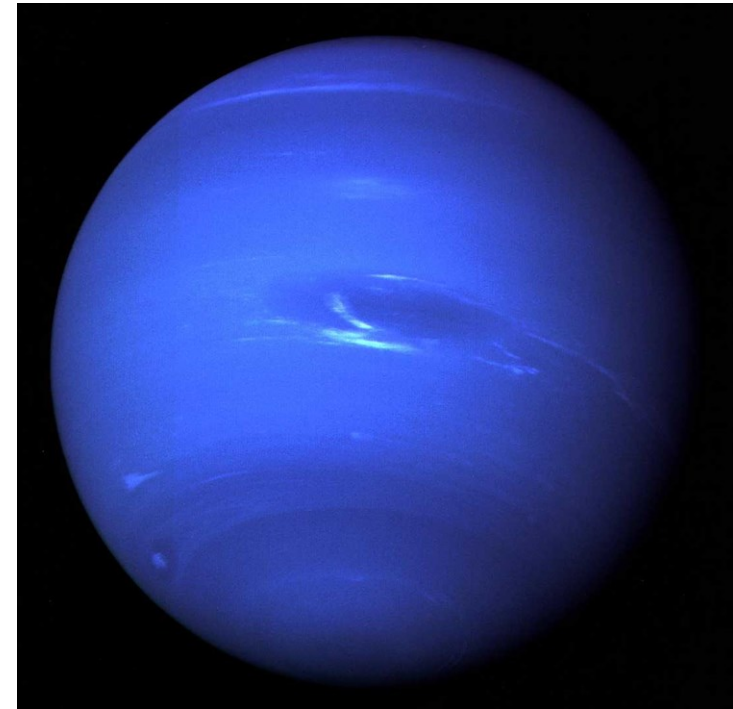
Uranus

3 fun facts:

- Uranus gets its blue-green colour from methane gas in the atmosphere.
- Wind speeds can reach up to 560 miles per hour on Uranus.
- It takes sunlight 2 hours and 40 minutes to travel from the Sun to Uranus.

Neptune

Distance from Sun	30AU
Size compared to Earth	4 times wider
Length of day	16 hours
Length of year	165 Earth years (60,190 Earth days)



Neptune

3 fun facts:

- Sunlight on Earth is 900 times as bright as sunlight on Neptune.
- Neptune experiences seasons just like we do on Earth; however, since its year is so long (165 Earth years), each of the four seasons lasts for over 40 years!
- Scientists think there might be an ocean of very hot water under Neptune's cold clouds. It does not boil away because incredibly high pressure keeps it locked inside.