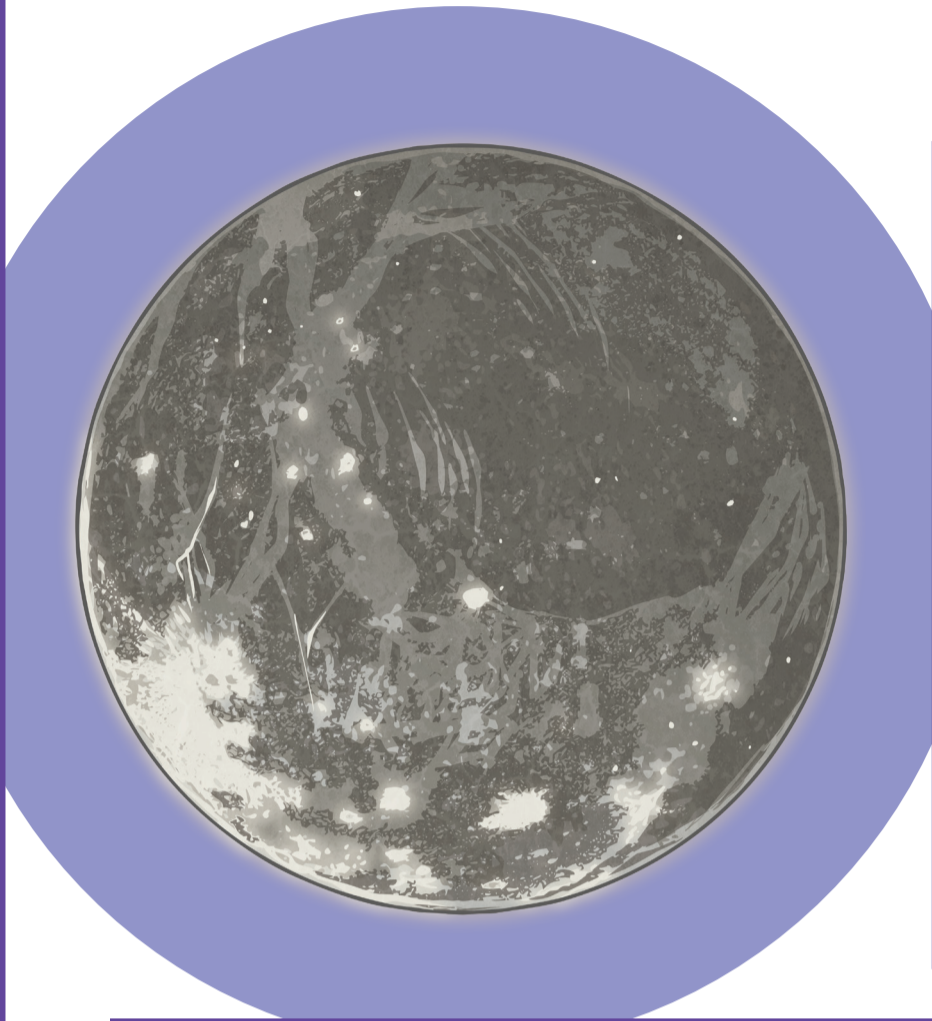


# Mercury



<b>Size:</b>	4,879.4 km
<b>Distance from Sun:</b>	57.91 million km
<b>Temperature:</b>	between -173°C and 427°C
<b>Atmosphere:</b>	hydrogen, helium, oxygen, sodium, calcium, potassium and water vapor

Mercury has no moons.

Your weight on Mercury would be 38% of your weight on Earth.

A year on Mercury lasts for only 88 Earth days.

A day on Mercury lasts 58 Earth days.

Mercury is the smallest planet in the solar system.

Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun but, oddly, is **not** the hottest.



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# Venus



<b>Size:</b>	12,104 km
<b>Distance from Sun:</b>	108.2 million km
<b>Length of year:</b>	225 days
<b>Atmosphere:</b>	carbon dioxide (96.5%) and sulfur dioxide

Venus is named after the Roman goddess of love and beauty.

Venus is visible from Earth and is the second brightest natural object in the sky. It is our closest neighbour.

Venus is the hottest planet in the solar system, with a maximum temperature of 427°C!

The Earth and Venus are of very similar sizes, so they are sometimes called “sisters”.

It is one of only two planets in the system which rotate clockwise.



# Earth



<b>Size:</b>	12,742 km
<b>Distance from Sun:</b>	149.6 million km
<b>Temperature:</b>	between -88°C and 58°C
<b>Atmosphere:</b>	Nitrogen (78.08%), oxygen (20.95%), argon (0.93%), carbon dioxide (0.04%)

Earth is the third planet from the Sun.

Earth is the largest of the terrestrial planets (planets with solid surfaces).

It is the only planet with liquid oceans, although Mars may have had them once.

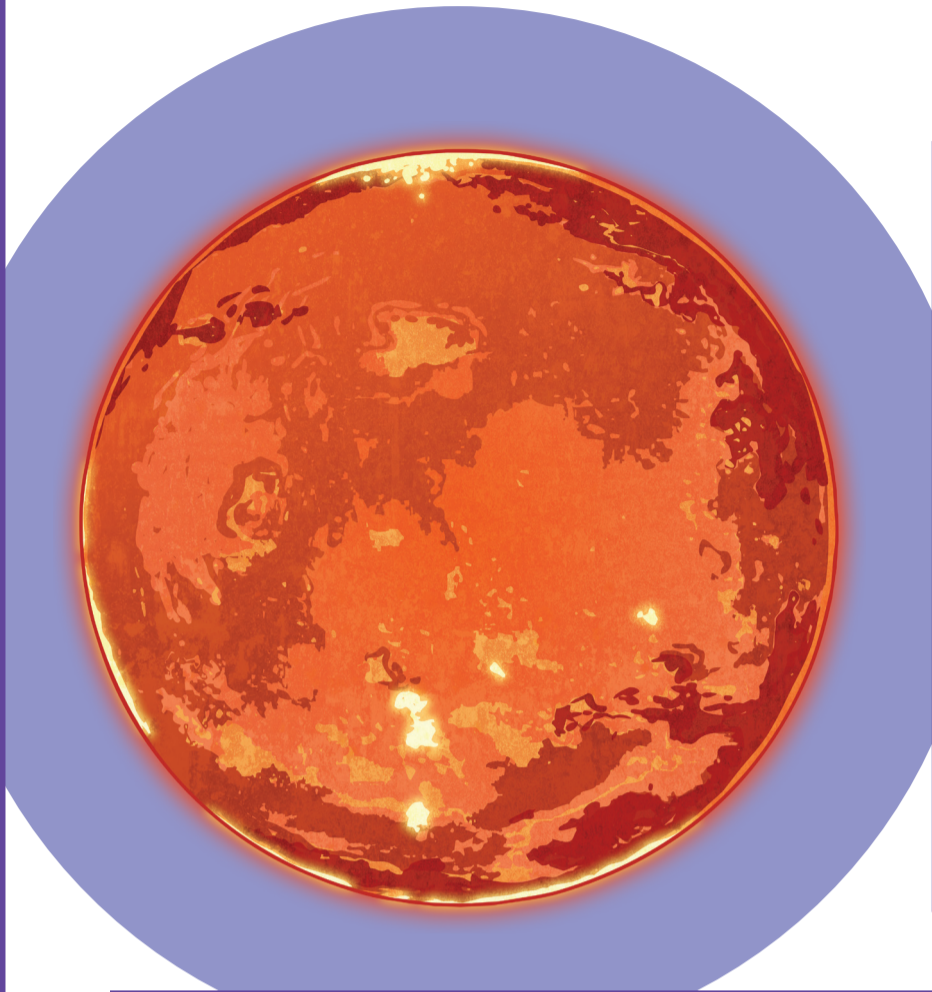
Earth is the planet with the best conditions to support life, and the only one with enough oxygen in the atmosphere for us to breathe.

Earth and Mars are the only planets with permanent polar ice caps.



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# Mars



<b>Size:</b>	6,779km
<b>Distance from Sun:</b>	227.9 million km
<b>Temperature:</b>	between -140°C and 30°C
<b>Moons:</b>	2 (Phobos and Deimos)

Mars is named after the Roman god of war.

It is the planet that we have explored the most of, even though it is not the closest to us.

Gravity on Mars is about 38% as strong as on Earth.

Pieces of Mars have been found on Earth!

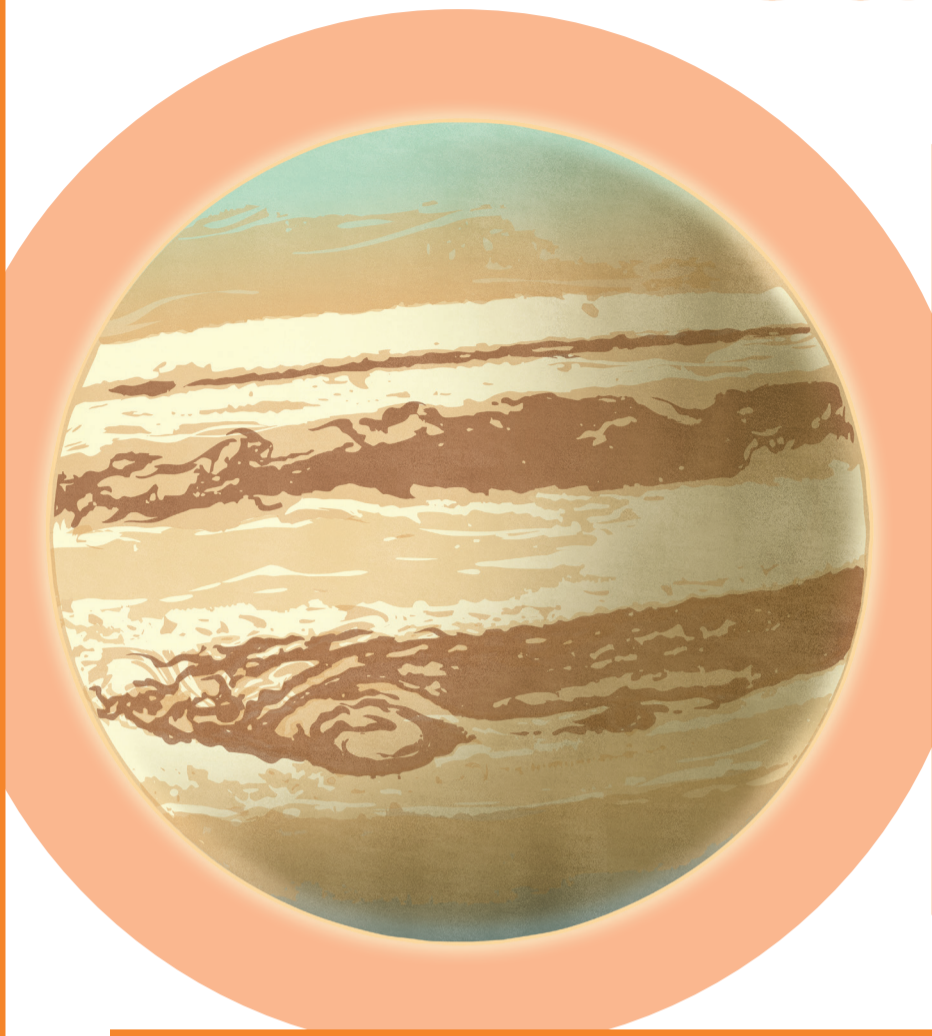
Mars experiences the largest dust storms of any planet in the solar system.

Mars has seasons like Earth does, because it is also tilted on its axis, but these seasons last much longer than ours.



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# Jupiter



<b>Size:</b>	139,820 km
<b>Distance from Sun:</b>	778.5 million km
<b>Temperature:</b>	between -128°C and 4°C
<b>Length of year:</b>	12 years

Jupiter is the largest planet in the system, a whopping 139,820km across! It would take 317 Earths to equal the mass of Jupiter.

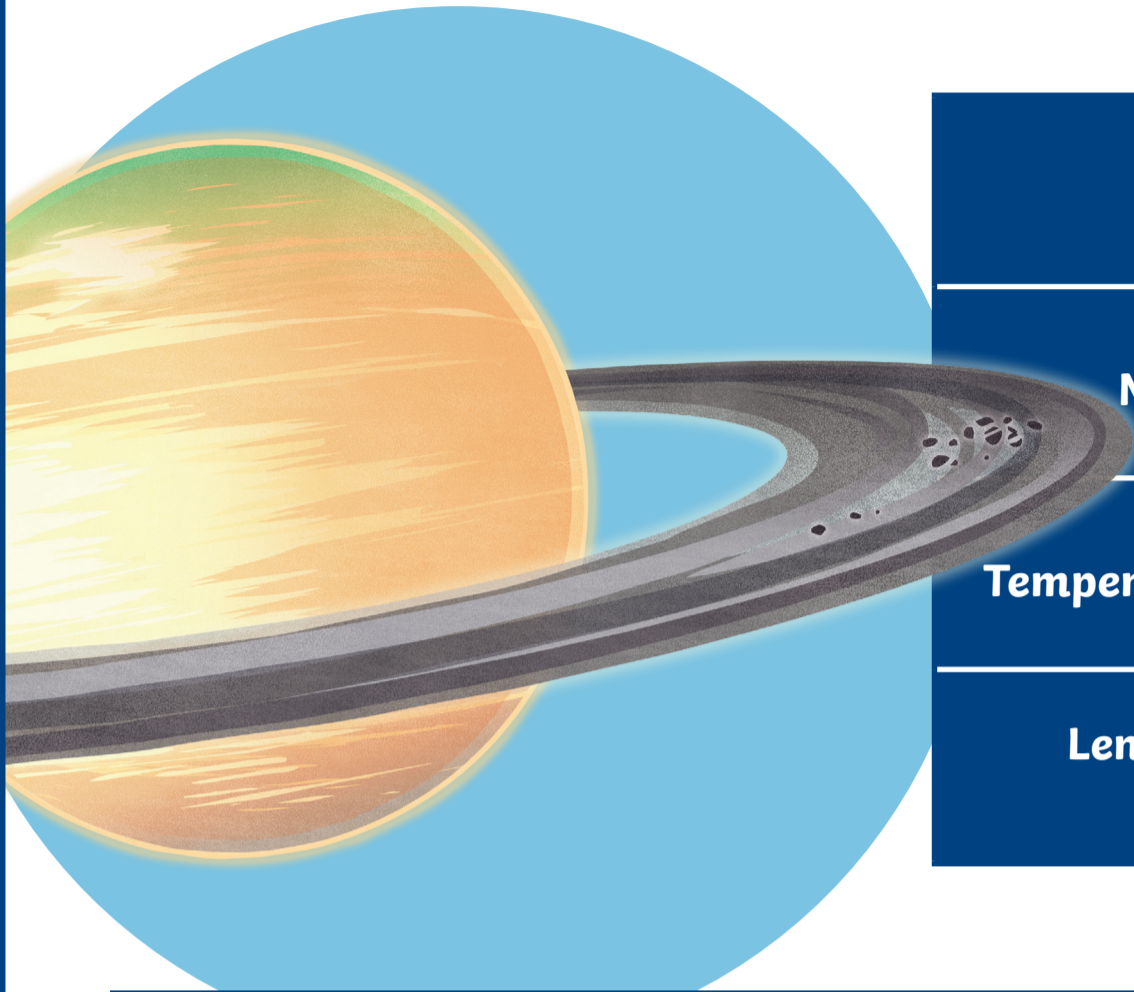
It spins so fast that its day is just under ten hours long.

The entire planet is made mostly of gas.

Jupiter has 67 moons, the most famous being Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto.

Jupiter has an enormous storm that has been raging for over 300 years, called the Great Red Spot. This storm is so huge that three Earths would fit inside it!

# Saturn



<b>Size:</b>	139,820 km
<b>Moons:</b>	62 confirmed
<b>Temperature:</b>	between -128°C and 4°C
<b>Length of year:</b>	12 years

Saturn is the second largest planet in the solar system.

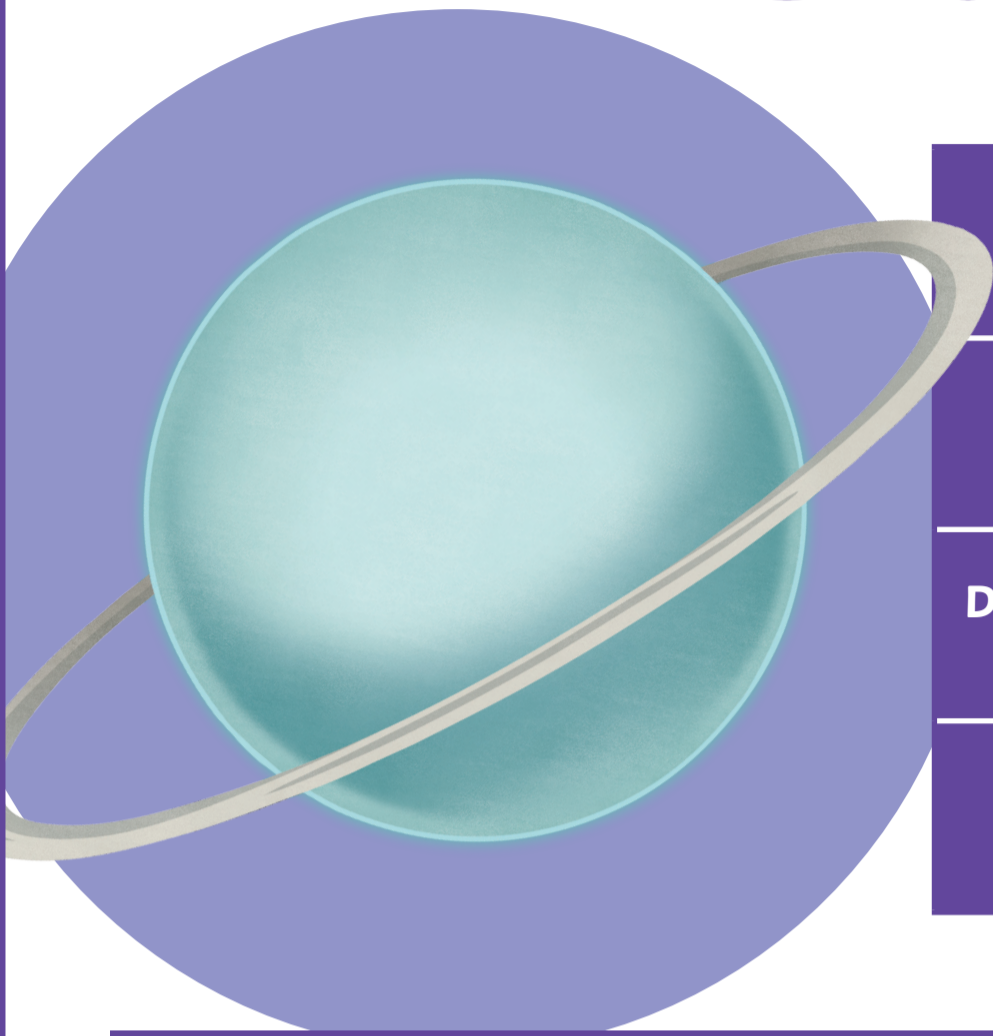
Saturn has rings which are made of billions of pieces of ice, dust and rock, some as small as a grain of sand, others as big as a house.

Saturn has so many things orbiting around it, its moons are still being confirmed.

The planet has the fastest winds of any in the solar system, at about 1,100mph!

Saturn is known as one of the “gas giants” like Jupiter, but scientists believe that it has a solid, rocky core.

# Uranus



<b>Size:</b>	50,724 km
<b>Moons:</b>	27 (Titania, Oberon, Miranda, Ariel, Umbriel...)
<b>Distance from Sun:</b>	2.871 billion km
<b>Length of year:</b>	84 years

The Roman god Uranus was the father of the god Saturn.

Uranus is the third of the “gas giants”.

Like Venus, Uranus rotates clockwise. On Uranus, the sun would rise in the west, not the east.

Uranus is the coldest planet in the solar system, with a chilly minimum temperature of around  $-224^{\circ}\text{C}$ !

The planet has 13 discovered rings, but there may be more. The rings are thought to be made of pieces of what were once moons, which have been shattered a comet or asteroids.

# Neptune



<b>Size:</b>	49,244 km
<b>Temperature:</b>	between -218°C and -200°C
<b>Distance from Sun:</b>	4.495 billion km
<b>Length of year:</b>	165 years

Neptune is the furthest planet from the Sun and has the longest year.

Neptune was named after the Roman god of the sea because of its blue colour.

The planet is much bigger than Earth and has very strong gravity.

Neptune has a storm on it which is about the size of the Earth.

Neptune has 14 discovered moons, the largest known as Titan – one of the coldest worlds in our system, which spits out particles of nitrogen ice and frozen dust.