

THE ICE GIANTS

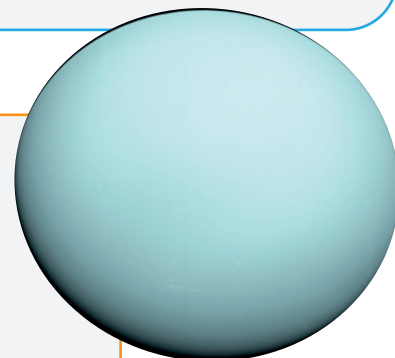
Far out in the solar system lie the ice giants. Neptune and Uranus are mostly made of hot, dense water, methane and ammonia ice. Whilst the planet's surface is cold, ice may reach thousands of degrees kelvin towards the planet's centre but remains 'icy' due to the extreme pressure.

Uranus and Neptune have atmospheres made primarily of hydrogen and helium similar to the composition of Jupiter and Saturn.

URANUS

Distance to the Sun: 2.87 billion km
Temperature: can reach as low as -224.2 °C
Equatorial radius: 25,362 km
Gravity: 90% of Earth's
Orbit: 84 Earth years

Uranus has 27 known moons.
 Methane makes Uranus appear blue.
 Uranus rotates on its side with 13 known rings.

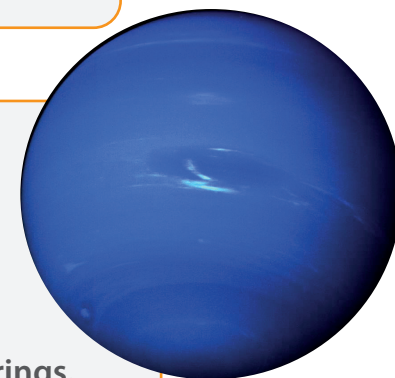


Credit: NASA/JPL

NEPTUNE

Distance to the Sun: 4.5 billion km
Temperature: -214 °C
Equatorial radius: 24,622 km
Gravity: 1.14 x Earth
Orbit: 165 Earth years

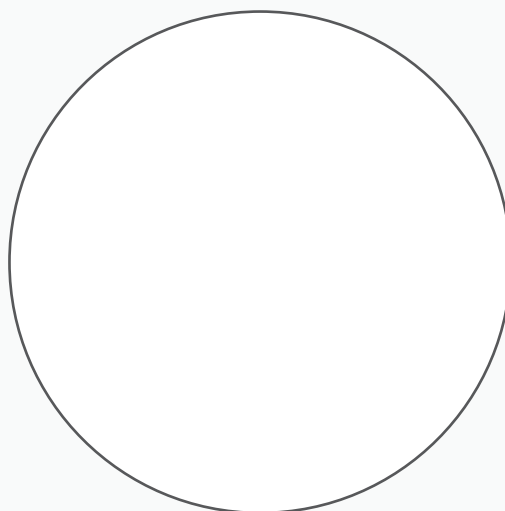
The Great Dark Spot on Neptune is a huge spinning storm.
 Neptune has 14 moons.
 Neptune has multiple faint rings.



Credit: NASA

DESIGN A PLANET

New planets are discovered outside our solar system every day with more than 4000 confirmed extrasolar planets to date. Your challenge is to design your own planet. Create your own unique world then sketch and label its unique features below.



How many moons does it have? What is it made of? What colour is it?
 How close to a star is it, and will that affect your other choices?