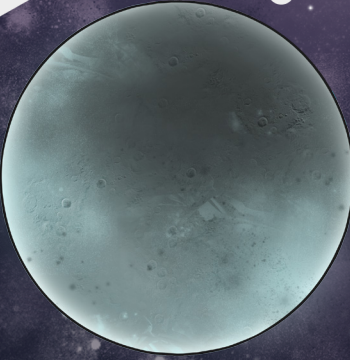


Planetary Fact Cards

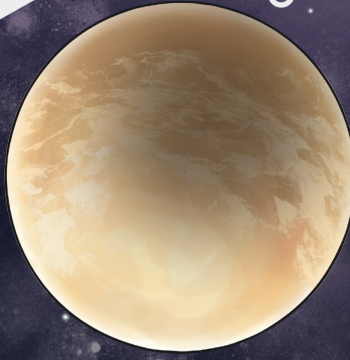


Mercury

1st planet from the Sun

46-70 million km from the Sun

Discovered by:	Assyrian astronomers
Discovery date:	1400 BC
Named after:	Roman god of messengers
Temperature:	- 173°C (out of sunlight) to 420°C (in sunlight)
Colour:	Grey
Made of:	Iron and rock
Moons:	0
Days in a year:	88
Interesting Fact:	There are wrinkles on the surface which are called Lobate Scarps.



Venus

2nd planet from the Sun

108.2 million km from the Sun

Discovered by:	Babylonian astronomers
Discovery date:	1700 BC
Named after:	Roman goddess of love
Temperature:	462°C
Colour:	Clouds of sulphuric acid make it look a burnt yellow colour.
Made of:	Rock
Moons:	0
Days in a year:	243
Interesting Fact:	Venus rotates the opposite way to the Earth (anti-clockwise).

Mars



4th planet from the Sun

227.9 million km from the Sun

Discovered by: Egyptian astronomers

Discovery date: 2000 BC

Named after: Roman god of war

Temperature: -87°C to -5°C

Colour: Red

Made of: Rock (basalt)

Moons: 2: Phobos and Deimos

Days in a year: 687

Interesting Fact: Mars has the largest volcano in the solar system. Olympus Mons is 600 km wide and 21 km tall!

Earth



3rd planet from the Sun

149.5 million km from the Sun

Named after:

It's not! Earth is the only planet not named after a Roman or Greek God. The word Earth comes from both English and German words, 'eor(th)e/ertha' and 'erde', which mean 'ground'.

Temperature: -88°C to 58°C

Colour: Blue, green, white

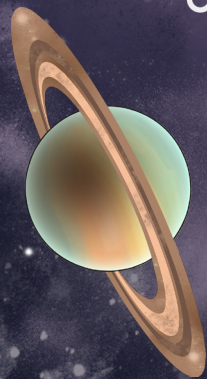
Made of: Rock and metal

Moons: 1

Days in a year: 365.25

Interesting Fact: The Earth is the only known planet that supports life. In order for this to happen, a planet needs to be in the 'Goldilocks zone'; which the Earth is!

Saturn



6th planet from the Sun

1.433 billion km from the Sun

Discovered by: Assyrian astronomers

Discovery date: 800 BC

Named after: Roman god of many things including time and wealth

Temperature: -139°C

Colour: Mostly yellowish brown

Made of: Gas (mainly hydrogen and helium)

Moons: 62; including Titan, Rhea and Enceladus

Days in a year: 10756

Interesting Fact: Saturn's rings are made up of ice and rocks. The exact number of rings is still debated and there is no firm answer yet!

Jupiter



5th planet from the Sun

778.5 million km from the Sun

Discovered by: Babylonian astronomers

Discovery date: 800-700 BC

Named after: King of the Roman gods

Temperature: -87°C to -5°C

Colour: White, orange, red, brown and yellow

Made of: Gas (mainly hydrogen and helium)

Moons: 67; including Io, Europa and Callisto

Days in a year: 4333

Interesting Fact: Days are shorter in Jupiter – it takes 9 hours and 55 minutes to turn on its axis while it takes Earth 24 hours.

Uranus



7th planet from the Sun

2.877 billion km from the Sun

Discovered by: William Herschel

Discovery date: March 31st, 1781

Named after: Greek god of the sky

Temperature: -197°C

Colour: blue-green

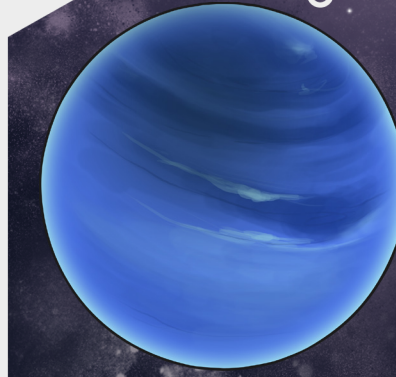
Made of: Ices (like water, ammonia and methane)

Moons: 27; including Oberon and Titania

Days in a year: 30687

Interesting Fact: Uranus is tilted 98° so it rotates in the opposite direction to the other planets in the solar system.

Neptune



8th planet from the Sun

4.503 billion km from the Sun

Discovered by: Urbain Le Verrier and Johann Galle

Discovery date: September 23rd, 1846

Named after: Roman god of the seas

Temperature: -201°C

Colour: Blue

Made of: Gas (mainly hydrogen and helium)

Moons: 14; including Triton

Days in a year: 60 190

Interesting Fact: The Great Dark Spot was the name of a storm on Neptune – it lasted 5 years!