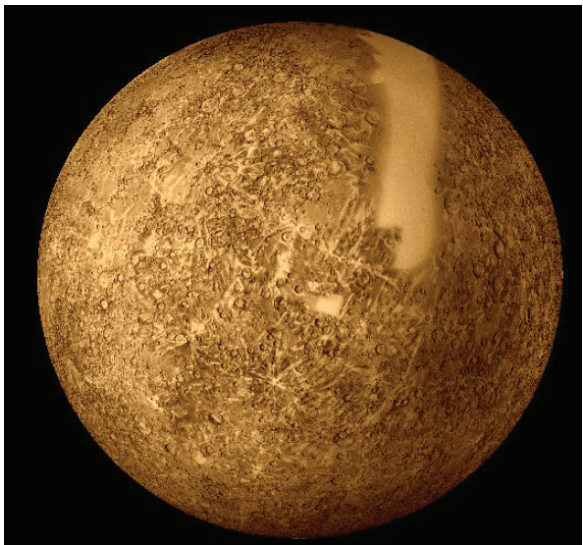
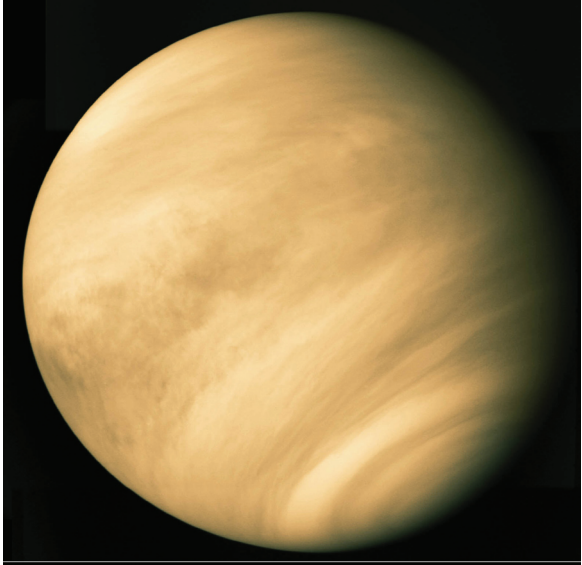


The Solar System



35.9 million miles away from the sun you can find Mercury. A day on Mercury would last 58.6 Earth days (rotation), while a complete year would take 87.9 Earth days (orbit). It is only a little larger than the Earth's moon. However, it has the most extreme temperature changes than any other planets. Sometimes the temperature will reach 800°F while other times it will fall to -280°F.

Mercury



Venus can be found 67.2 million miles away from the sun. A day on Venus would last 243 Earth days (rotation), while a complete year would take 224.7 Earth days. The atmosphere is made of sulfuric acid clouds that hold on to the sun's heat, making this planet hotter than Mercury. The surface of Venus is full of huge volcanoes that often erupt.

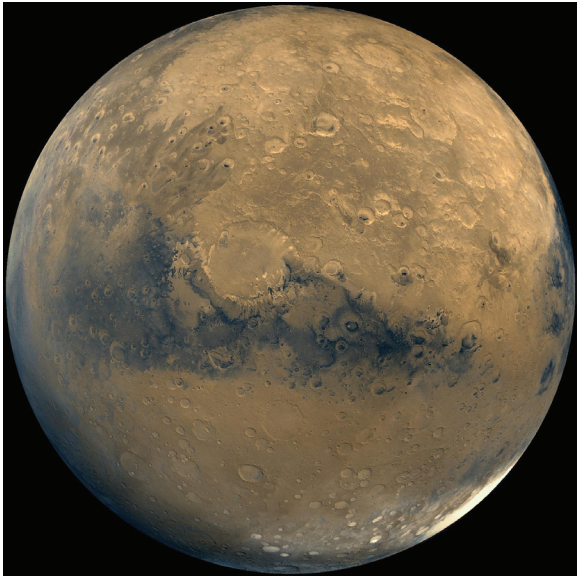
Venus



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Earth is 93 million miles away from the sun. It rotates around its axis every 23.9 hours while it orbits around the sun every 365.2 days. It has one moon and it is the only planet in our system that is known to be able to support life, because it has an atmosphere that contains oxygen. $\frac{2}{3}$ of its surface is covered by water.

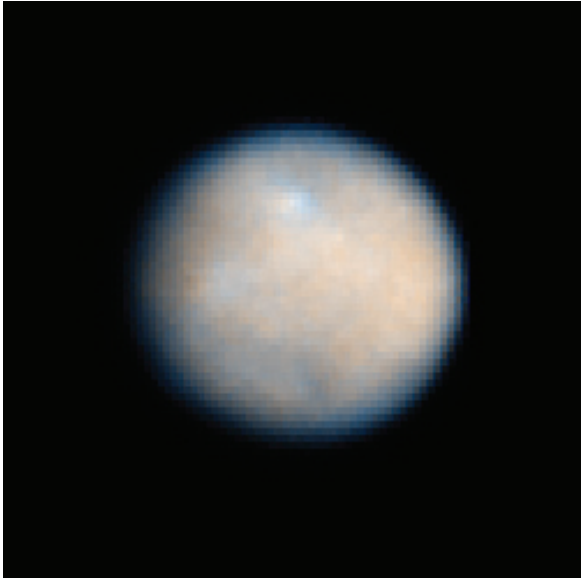
Earth



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141.6 miles away from the sun you will find Mars. It rotates around its axis every 24. 6 Earth hours while it orbits around the sun every 686.2 days. It has 2 moons, and it is believed that millions of years ago it had water. Mars has the tallest mountain of any planet in our system as well as the longest canyon. NASA is trying to explore this planet with Remote Operated Vehicles that can take pictures of the surface.

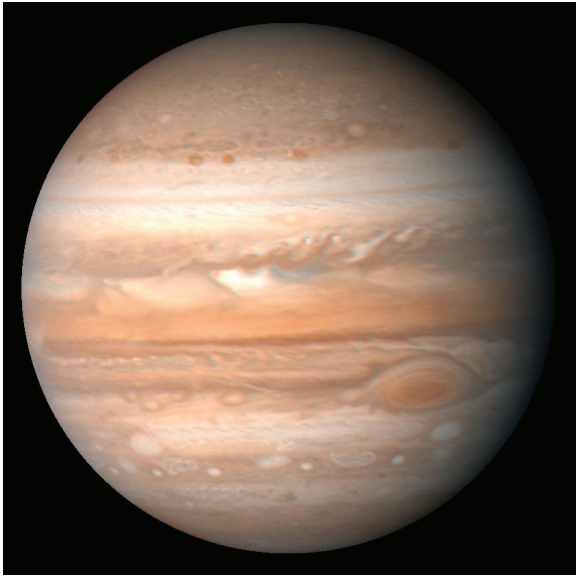
Mars



257 million miles away from the sun you can find Ceres. A day here lasts only 9.1 Earth hours, while it would take 4.6 Earth years to make one year.

Ceres is considered a dwarf planet. It is the largest object in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter. It was discovered in 1801. However, today we know that it is just a rock covered with ice.

Ceres

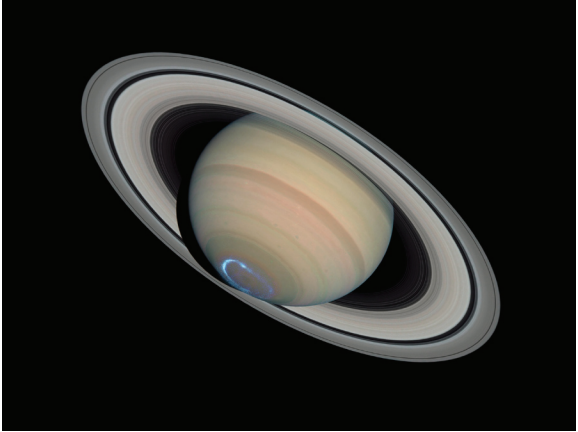


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Jupiter is 483.7 million miles away from the sun. It rotates every 9.9 Earth hours, while it orbits the sun every 11.9 Earth years. It has 63 moons of which only 48 have been named.

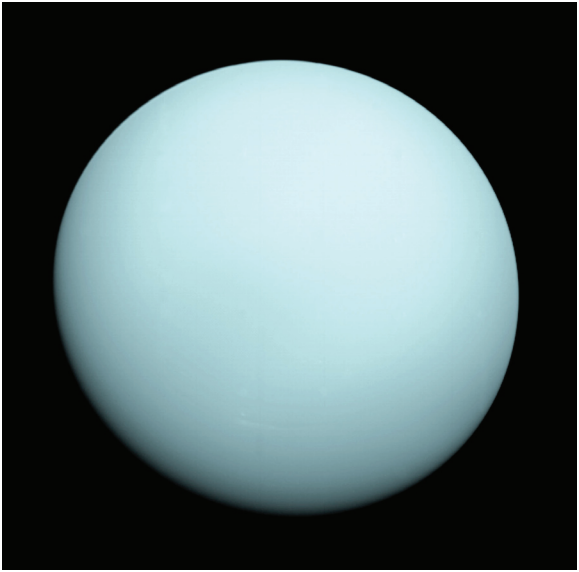
Jupiter is nothing more than a great big ball of hydrogen and helium. With winds reaching 400 miles an hour. It has a big red spot on its surface, and it is the largest of all the planets.

Jupiter



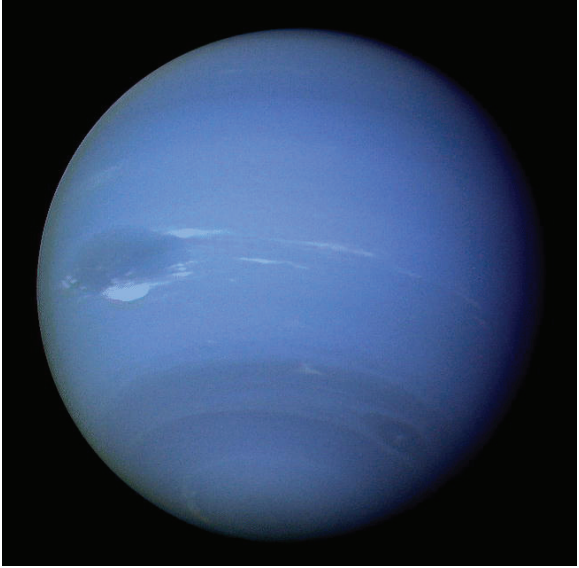
885.9 million miles away from the sun you will find Saturn. A day is made of 10.7 Earth hours, while a year is made of 29.5 Earth years. It has 56 moons of which only 35 have been named. Saturn is known for its rings that reach 165,000 miles in diameter while only 150 feet in thickness. The winds on the planet's surface reach 1,000 miles an hour.

Saturn



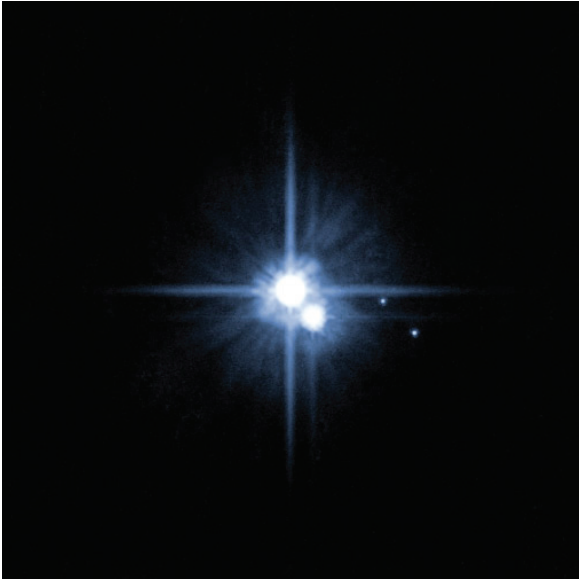
Uranus is 1.8 billion miles away from the sun. It rotates around its axis every 17.2 hours, and one year would take 84 Earth years. It has 27 moons. The methane in the atmosphere give this planet a light blue color. It is believed that this planet was knocked off its axis by an asteroid the size of the Earth. It therefore spins sideways. Looking at it from far away it would look like a ball rolling around.

Uranus



2.8 billion miles away from the sun you will find the planet Neptune. It rotates around its axis every 16.1 Earth hours, while it revolves around the sun every 164. 8 Earth years. It has 13 moons, 9 of which have been named. It was discovered in 1846. Neptune produces more heat than it absorbs from the sun. For this reason because of the temperatures there are great storms that reach 900 miles an hour.

Neptune



Pluto is 3.7 billion miles away from the sun. It has 3 moons. It rotates around its axis every 6.4 Earth days. A year on Pluto would take 247.9 Earth years. This dwarf planet is a ball of rock covered with ice water and that is covered by methane ice. This dwarf planet was once known as the 9th planet.

Pluto



At the edge of our solar system, more than 6.4 billion miles away from the sun, and right after Pluto, one can find several asteroids and yet another dwarf planet known as Eris. This belt of asteroids is known as the Kuiper Belt Objects. Many of these asteroids were discovered as recently as 2005, thanks to more powerful telescopes that allow us to see further into the universe.

Kuiper Belt Objects

