

Level 3

The Outer Planets

Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune are known as the outer planets. They are the four planets farthest from the sun. The outer planets are much colder than the inner planets.

Jupiter

Jupiter is the largest planet in the solar system. It spins faster than any other planet. This means its days are very short. A day on Jupiter is only 9 hours and 55 minutes. There is a massive storm on Jupiter that has been going for hundreds of years. The storm is about twice as wide as the Earth!

Saturn

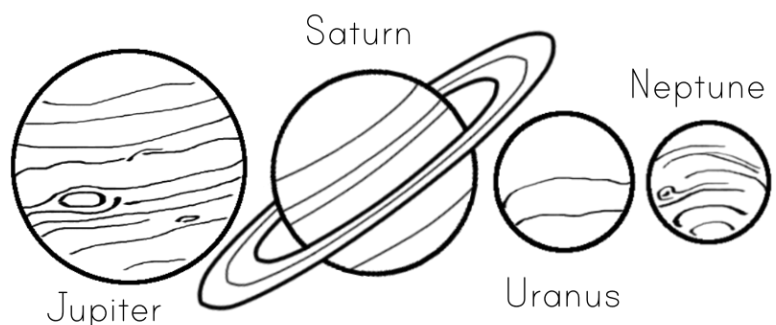
Saturn is the second largest planet in the solar system. Saturn has many large rings that are made of dust, rock and ice. One year on Saturn equals 29 years on Earth. Saturn has 82 moons. Its largest moon is called Titan.

Uranus

Uranus is the second farthest planet from the Sun and has 13 rings. Uranus is unique in that it rotates on its side, like a ball rolling along the floor. Scientists believe this was caused by something crashing into it. One year on Uranus is equal to 84 Earth years. Uranus was discovered by William Herschel.

Neptune

Neptune is the farthest planet from the Sun. Its atmosphere gives it a deep blue colour. Neptune has five rings and fourteen moons. Its largest moon is Triton. One year on Neptune is equal to 165 years on Earth. Neptune was named after the Roman god of the sea.



Task A: Comprehension

1. Triton is a moon of which planet?

2. Why are the outer planets all so cold?

3. Which word from the text means 'dark'?

4. Why are the days on Jupiter so short?

5. What makes Uranus different to all the other planets?

6. Why do you think Neptune was named after the Roman god of the sea?

7. Which planet is the most interesting to you? Why?

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Question Sheet 2

Task B: Language and Grammar

1. **Syllables** are the beats in words. For example: 'planet' has 2 syllables- **pla** / **net**.

Show how many syllables are in the following words:

Neptune

Uranus

Jupiter

scientist

atmosphere

2. **Proper nouns** need capital letters. For example, 'planet' doesn't need a capital, but 'Jupiter' does.

Four of the nouns below are **proper nouns**. Circle them and rewrite with capitals.

space

william

moons

rings

saturn

ice

earth

neptune

Task C: Challenge

Draw and label a diagram of our solar system.