



Uranus

- Uranus' name comes from the Greek god of the heavens and is the father of Chronos (Saturn).
- It's diameter is 51,118 km and it rotates once in about 17 hours.
- Uranus orbits 2,870,000,000 (2.87 billion kilometers) from the sun (19 AU).
- It takes about 84 Earth years to travel once around the Sun.
- Uranus was first noticed by William

Herschel in 1781. It was the first planet discovered since ancient times.

- Almost everything we know about Uranus comes from the Voyager 2 flyby in 1986.
- All that can usually be seen from a telescope on Earth is a tiny and featureless blue-green disk.
- Uranus is mainly composed of hydrogen and helium.
- The planet has a system of rings but they divide into narrow bands that are much darker than Saturn's rings.
- There are 27 known moons orbiting Uranus. The brightest are called Miranda, Ariel, Umbriel, Titania, and Oberon. They are named after characters in literature (mainly Shakespeare's plays). This is different from most other solar system planets and moons which are named after Greek or Roman mythological figures.
- Uranus is tipped completely on its side. At one point in its orbit around the Sun, its north pole is pointing directly at the sun. While at the other side of its orbit, the south pole points directly at the Sun.
- Features on Uranus are very subdued. There are some faint cloud belts and sometimes patchy white high clouds.