



Venus

- Venus is almost the same size as Earth (12,100 km)
- Its orbit is 108 200 000 km.
- Venus was the Roman's name for this planet and Aphrodite was the ancient Greek's name. These are the ancient names for the Goddess of Love and Beauty.
- Venus is the brightest planet.
- Gravity on Venus is almost the same as Earth (91%). A 40kg person would weigh ~ 36kg.
- It takes Venus 225 Earth days to go once around the Sun and 243 Earth days to rotate once on its axis.
- Most planets rotate counter-clockwise (when seen from above), but Venus rotates clockwise very, very slowly.
- Venus' surface is obscured by clouds, although Magellan spacecraft took radar images of the surface in 1993.
- Venus has a very thick atmosphere of mainly carbon dioxide with high level clouds of sulphuric acid. It is equivalent to 90 times the pressure of Earth's atmosphere (the same as being about 1000 metres under the sea.
- The carbon dioxide produces a "runaway" greenhouse effect which gives a surface temperature of 470 degrees Celsius. This is hotter than seen on Mercury, even though Venus is almost twice as far away from the Sun.
- Venus has no magnetic field.
- Most of Venus has been resurfaced by lava flows in its past. Indications are that it is still geologically active in localized spots.
- Because the orbit of Venus lies inside Earth's orbit, the planet shows phases like Mercury and the moon.