

Uranus

Ice Giant

Year = 30,687 earth days

Day = 17 Earth hours

4 times larger than earth

Radius = 15,759.2 miles

1.8 billion miles from Sun

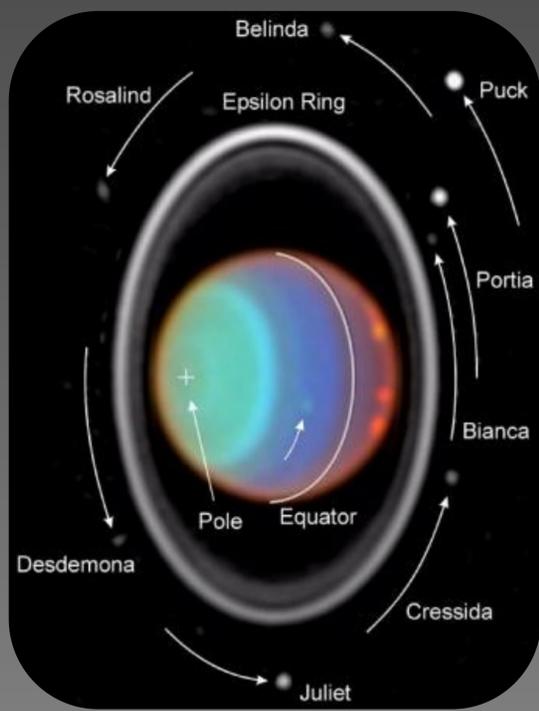
Gravity = 29.1 ft/s²

Uranus, a very cold and windy planet has 13 rings and 27 moons. Unlike other planets, Uranus rotates at almost a 90 degree angle to its orbit, which makes it appear to roll around the sun like a ball. Uranus is a special type of gas giant known as an ice giant. Like the other ice giant, Neptune, Uranus has a lot of water ice in its makeup. Without a solid surface the atmosphere, liquid and icy gasses, extends to the planet's interior, which is also colder than most planets. While a core temperature of 8.540 degrees seems hot, it is remarkably cooler than other planets and Uranus is the only planet that does not give off more heat than it receives from the Sun.



Uranus was discovered in 1781 by German-British astronomer William Herschel and was the first new planet discovered since antiquity. For this discovery he was appointed Court

Astronomer by King George III. Herschel also discovered infrared radiation while testing filters through which he could observe sunspots and found that with a red filter more heat was produced.



Uranus has at least twenty seven moons, many of them small orbiting bodies. What appear to be waves in Uranus' rings would seem to indicate additional moons whose gravity affects the shape of the ring where it is in close proximity to the unseen moon. The first four moons around Uranus were also discovered by astronomer William Herschel.

The only spacecraft to visit Uranus, and the only spacecraft to study all four giants up close, is Voyager 2. Like its sister, Voyager 1, this spacecraft was designed to enter interstellar space and study the edge of our solar system.

