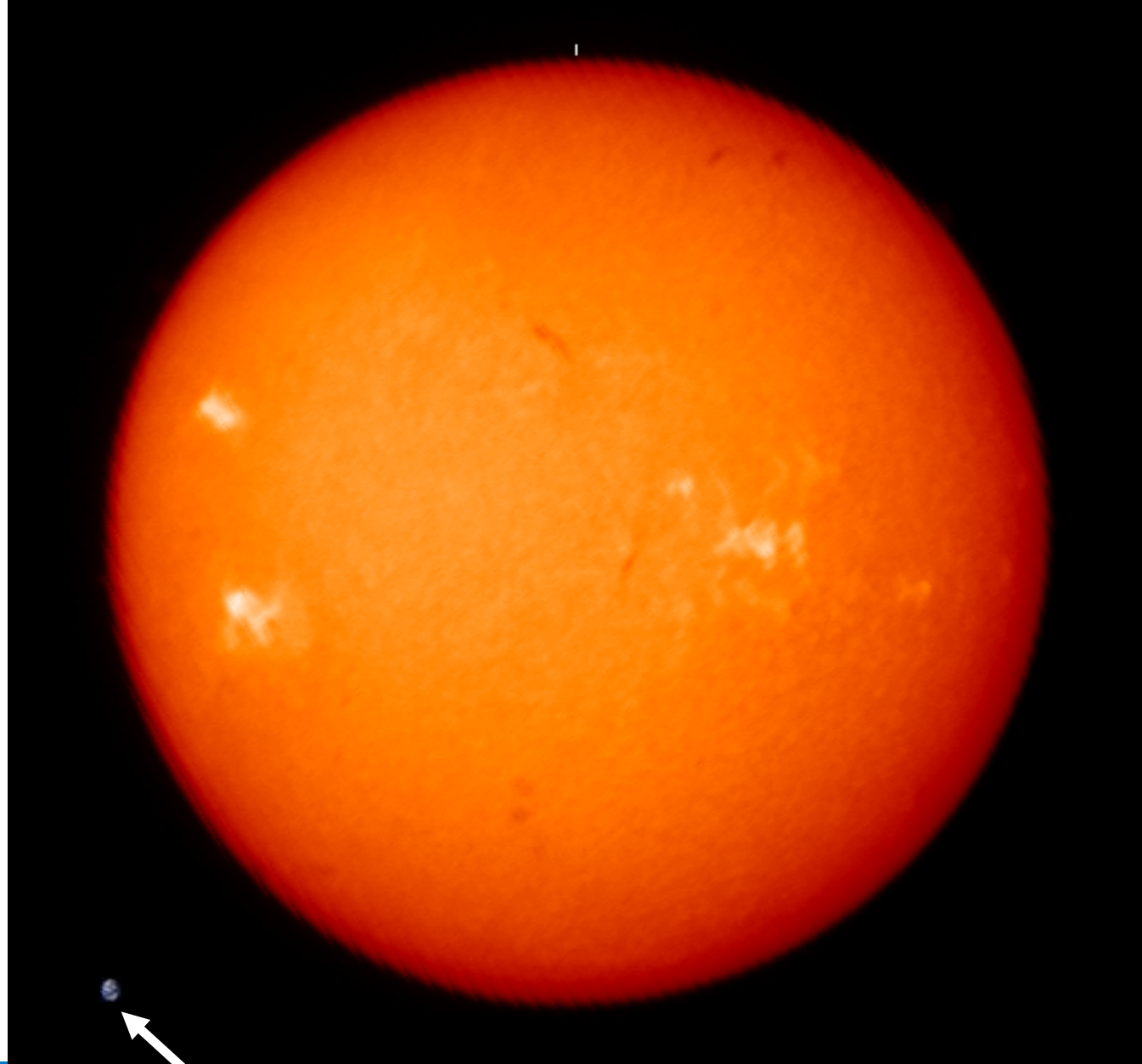


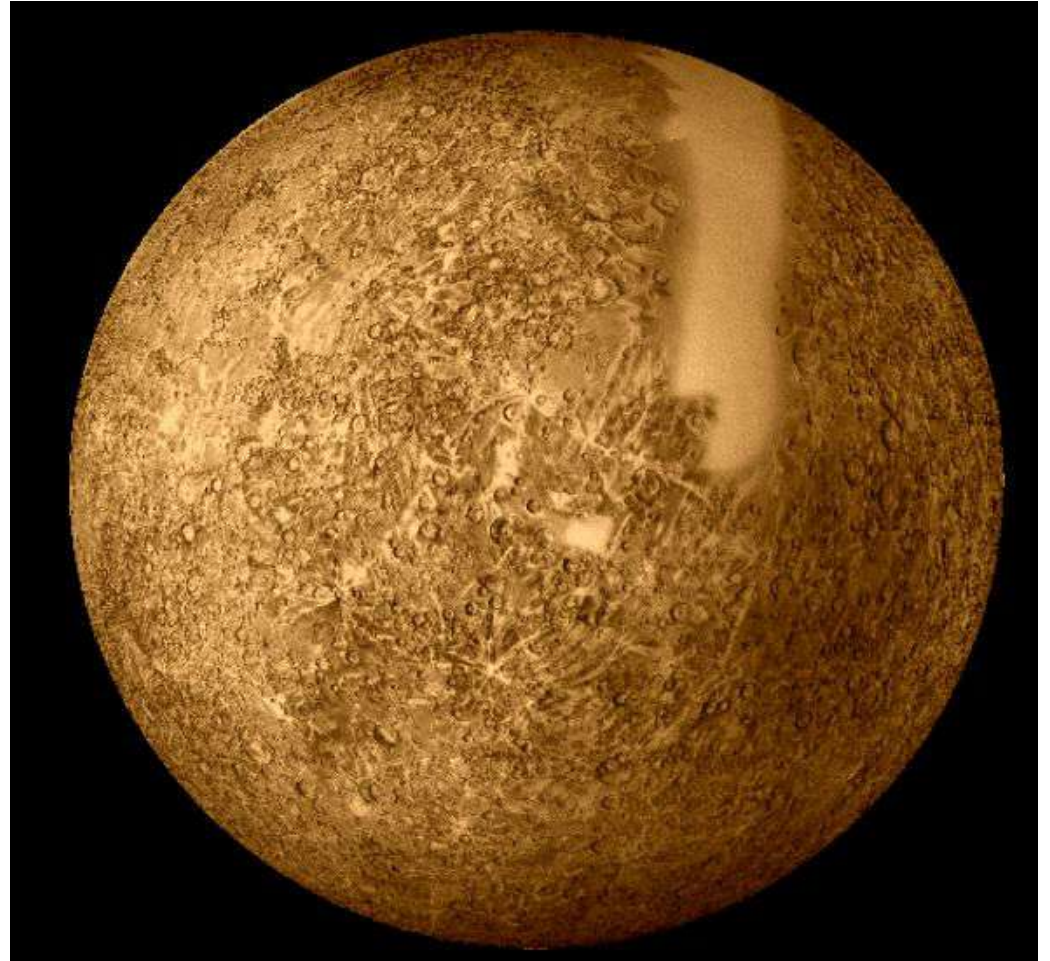
The Sun



The size of the Earth

Mercury

- Closest Planet to the Sun
- A day on Mercury is very long:
 - 59 Earth days!
- Mercury is the smallest planet (not counting the dwarf planets).
 - Less than half the size of the Earth.

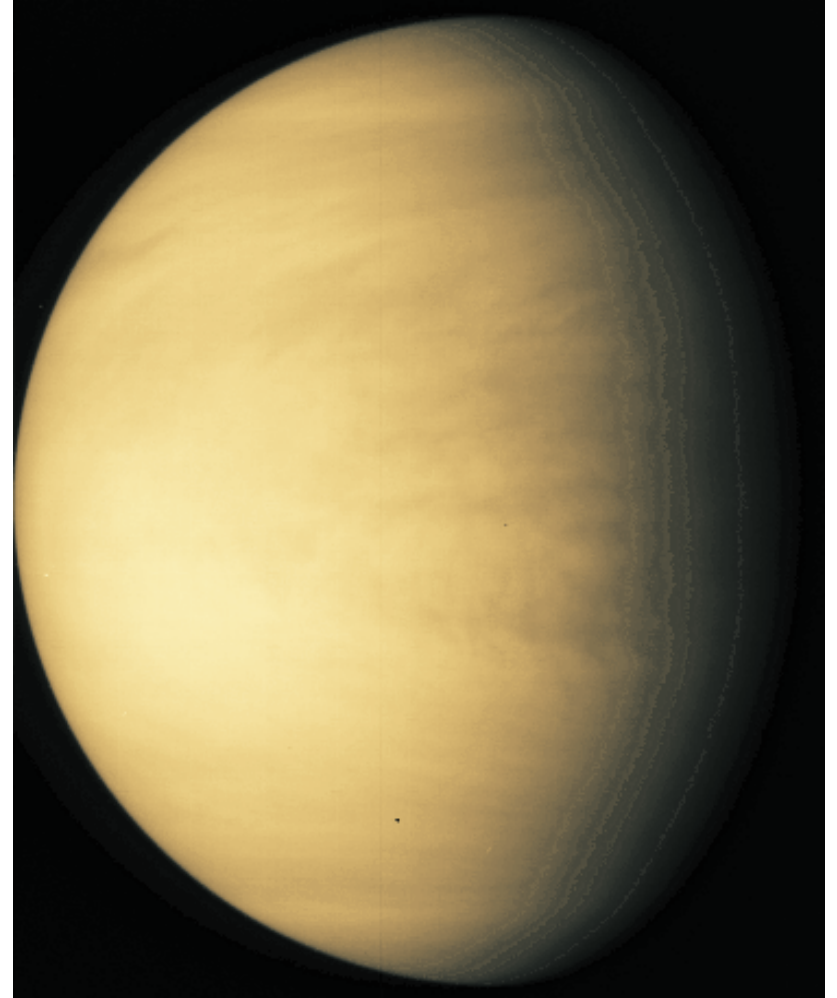


Venus – The Greenhouse Planet

- Dense, cloudy, atmosphere.
- Surface is about 5 times hotter than boiling water at 482°C
- Venus is just a bit smaller than Earth.



Picture from Soviet Lander Venera-9



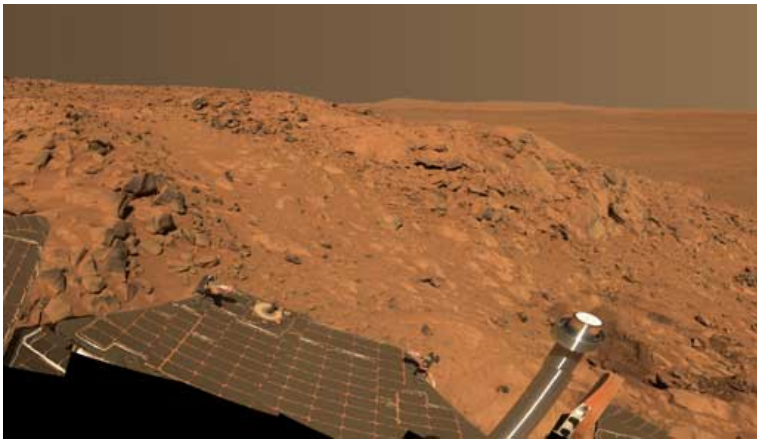
Earth and Moon

- The Earth is a planet of water
- The only planet clearly in the **habitable zone**.
- The Moon orbits the Earth once every 28 days.

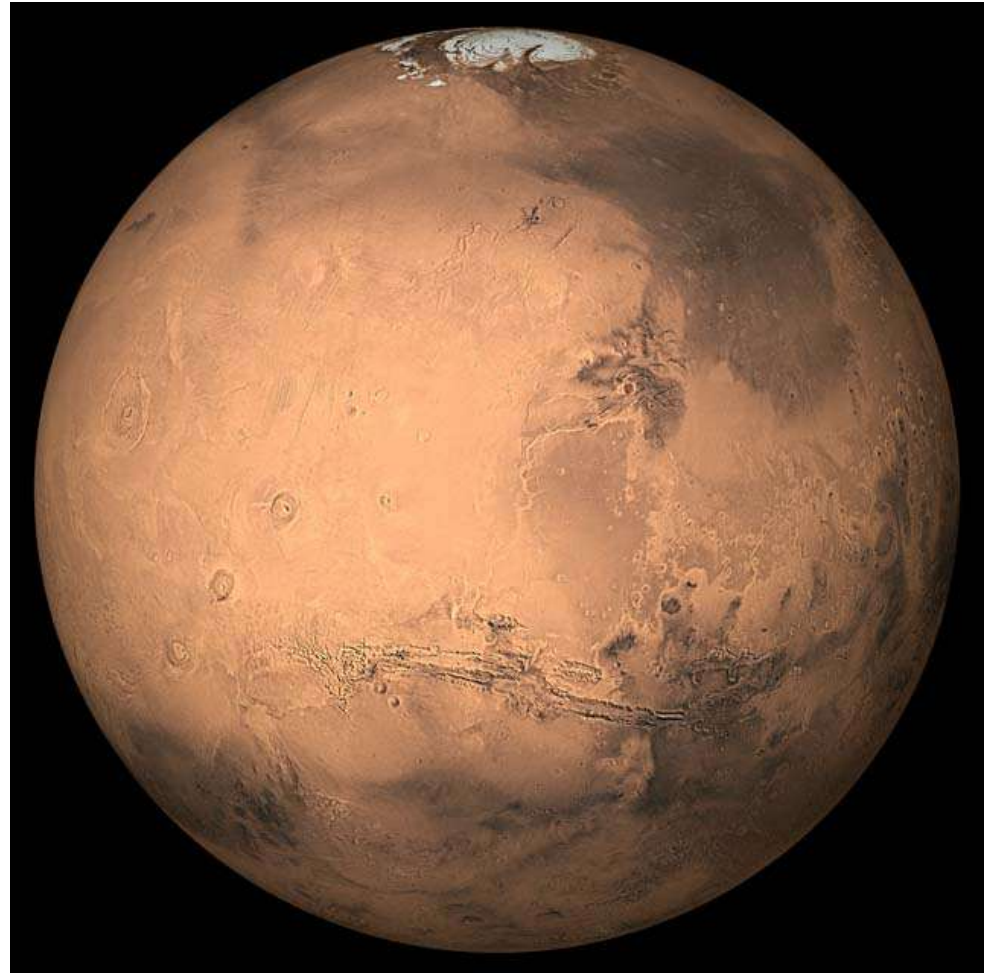


Mars

- Slightly smaller than Earth
- Rocky and dry
- Once had liquid water



Spirit Rover Landing Site



Mars

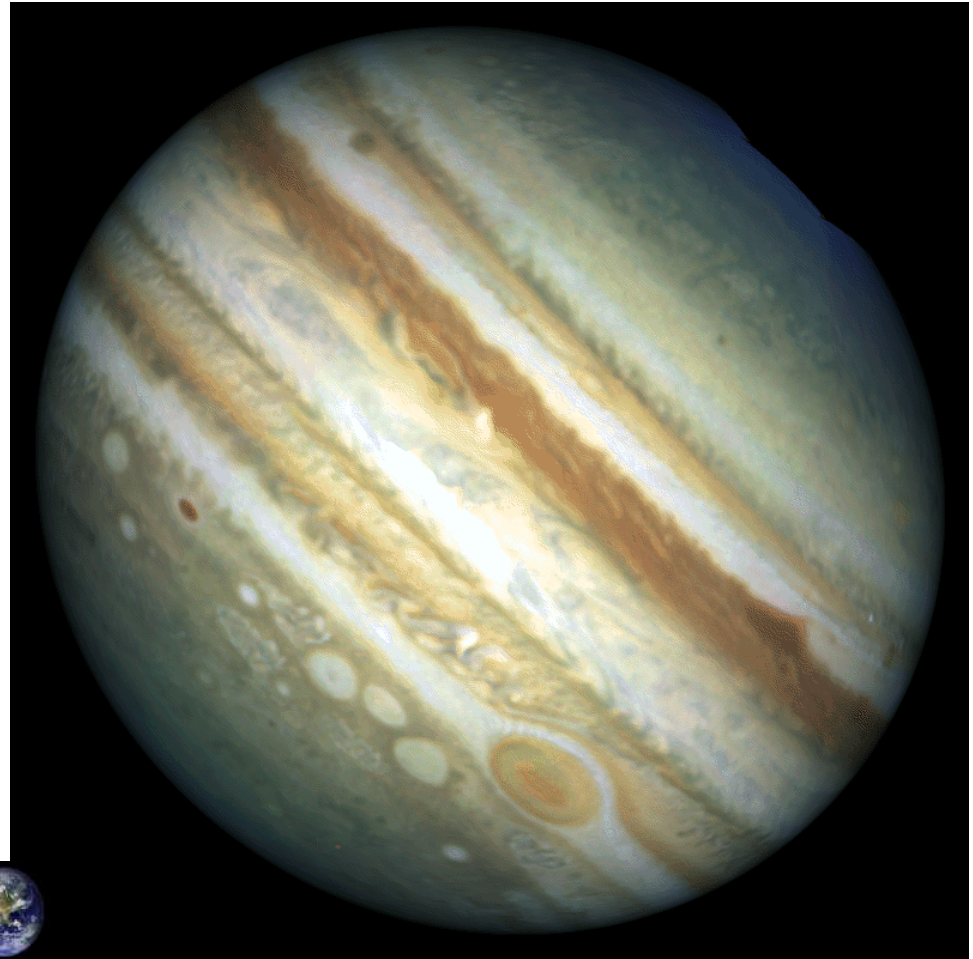
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Jupiter – A Giant Gas Planet

- Largest planet in the solar system.
- Has many moons.
- Big red spot:
 - A storm that has raged since Galileo first looked at Jupiter through a telescope.

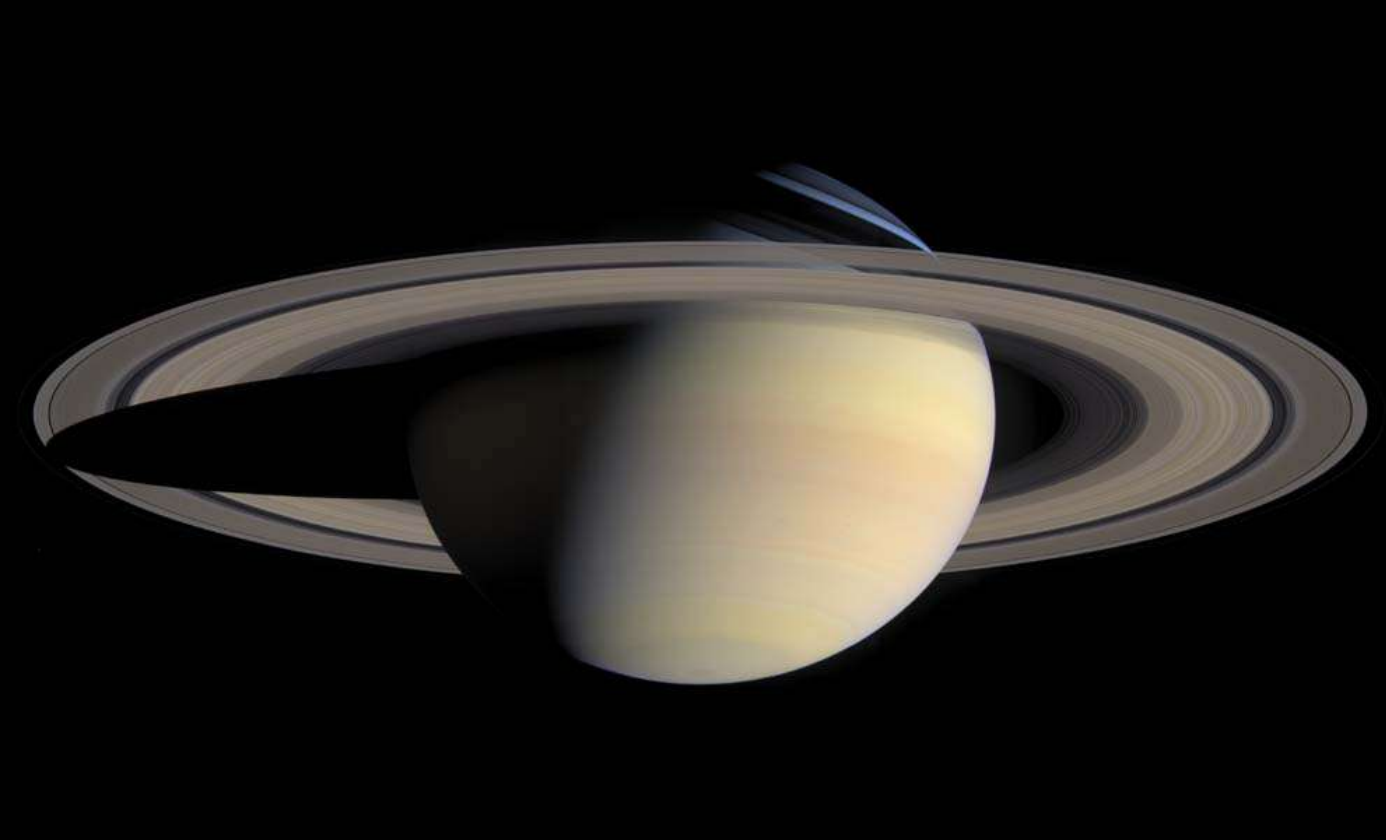


Galileo, (1564-1642)



Saturn

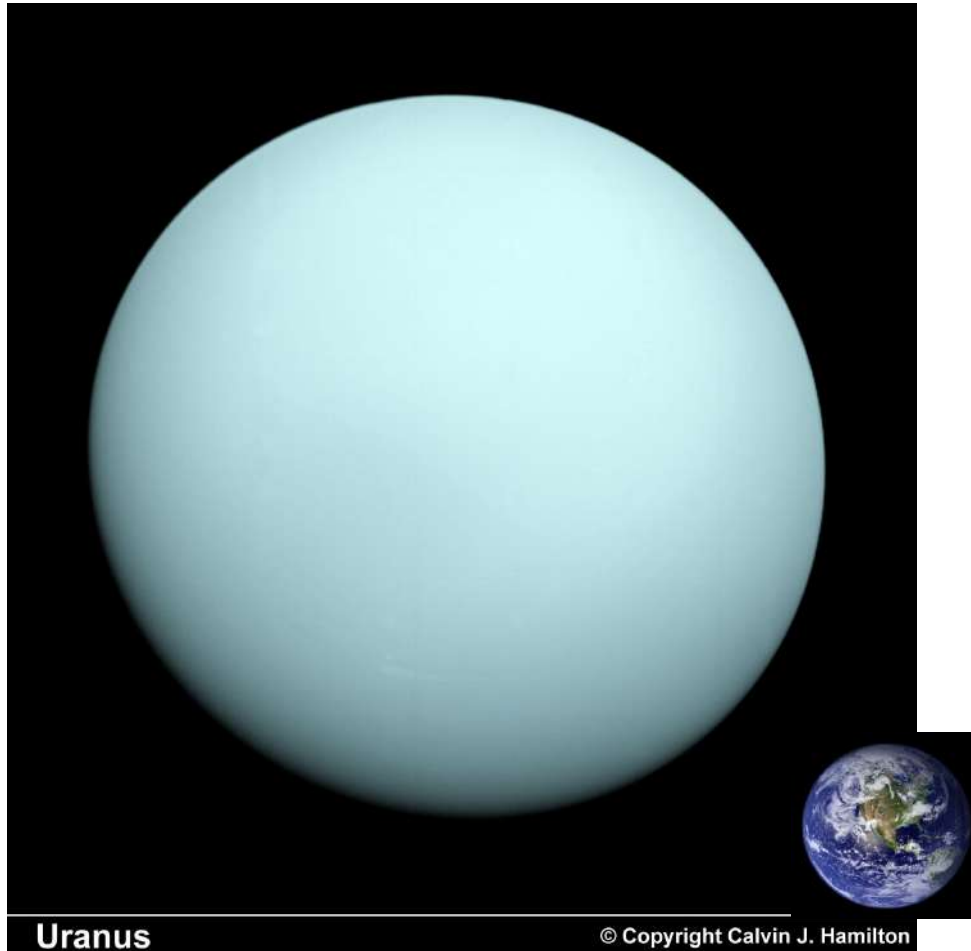
and its
spectacular rings



- Second largest planet
- Rings are made of ice
- Over 60 moons



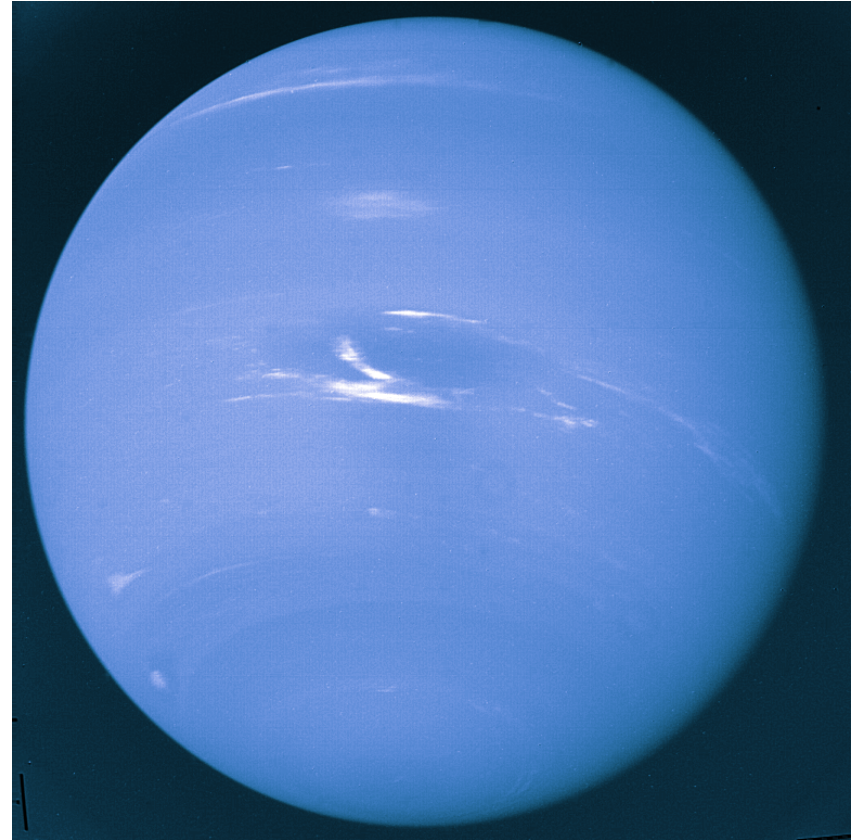
Uranus



- One of the Gas Giants
- Has coldest temperatures in the Solar system (-224°C)
- Tipped on its side
- Moons named after characters created by William Shakespeare and Alexander Pope

Neptune

- Slightly smaller than Uranus, but has a greater mass
- Has 14 moons
 - Triton – spew nitrogen ice crystals
- Only one spacecraft has flown by Neptune



Pluto – A dwarf Planet

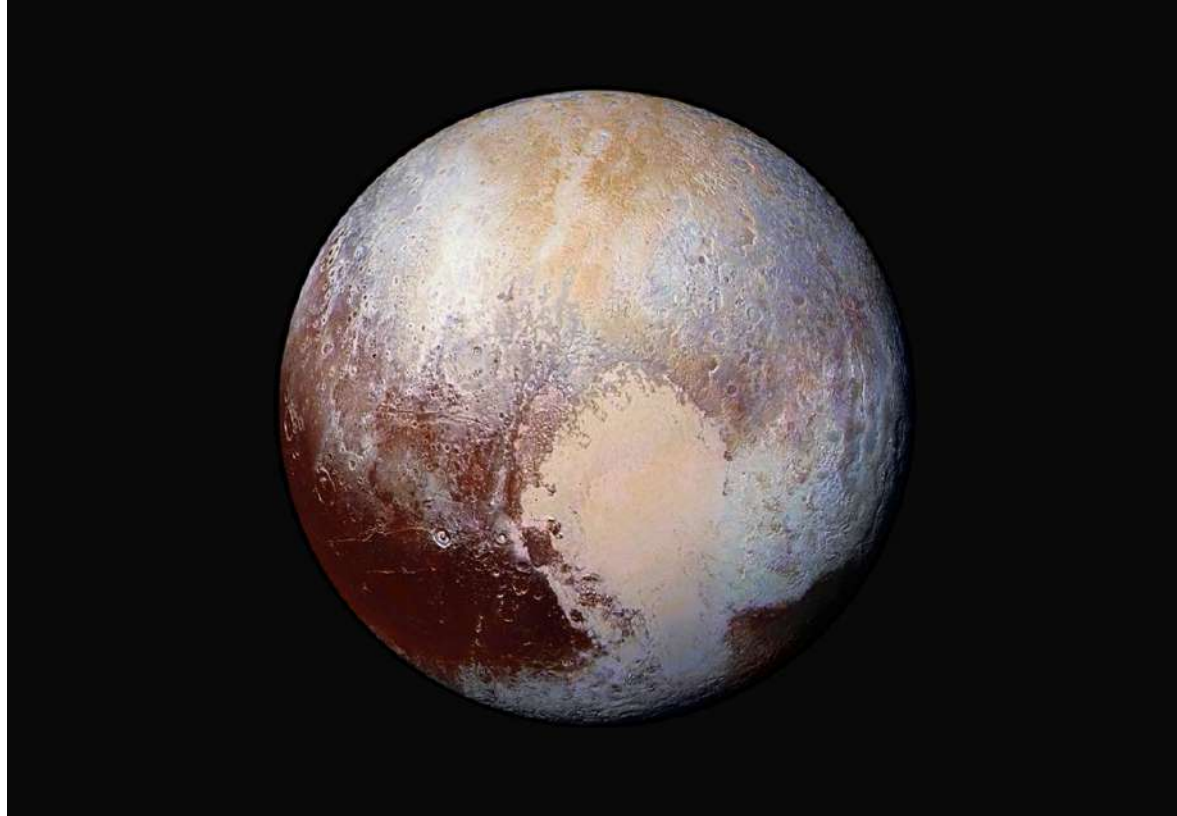


Image of Pluto from the New Horizons Mission (2015)