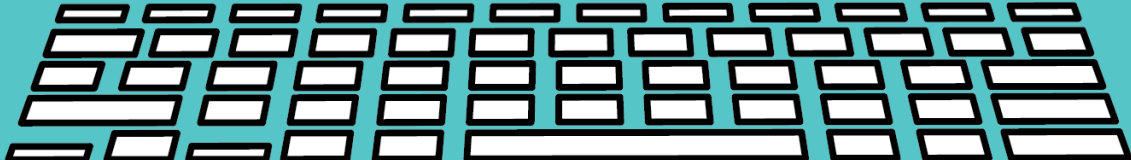


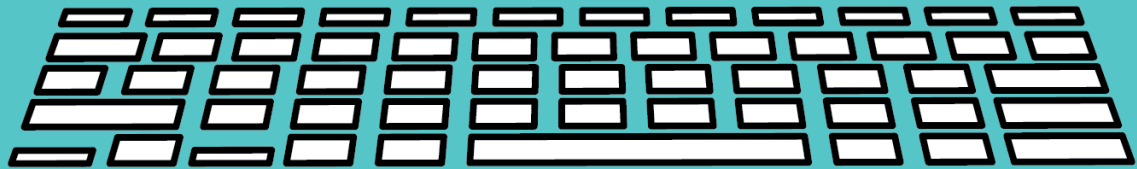
MOONS OF
URANUS, NINE
ARE
CONSIDERED
IRREGULAR

Short Answer	Type Answer Here
1. Who was the first person to spot Uranus?	
2. What color does the planet appear to be?	
3. How many moons does Uranus currently have?	
4. What did Herschel try to name the planet?	
5. How many rings does Uranus have?	
6. What planet is the sister planet of Uranus?	
7. What did William Herschel think the planet was?	
8. What Greek god is Uranus named after?	



Short Answer	Type Answer Here	Fill in the Blank	Type Answer Here
1. Who was the first person to see Uranus?		9. Uranus is the ____ planet from the Sun.	
2. What color does the planet appear to be?		10. The element ____ was named after Uranus.	
3. How many moons does Uranus currently have?		11. The largest moon of Uranus is called ____.	
4. What did Herschel try to name the planet?		12. The planet was found by telescope in the year ____.	
5. How many rings does Uranus have?		13. Uranus is considered ____.	
6. What planet is the sister planet of Uranus?		14. How long Uranus is ____ hours and 14 minutes to ____.	
7. What did William Herschel think the planet was?		15. Uranus spins in the ____ direction of Earth.	
8. What Greek god is Uranus named after?		16. Osanos is considered the husband of ____.	

PREVIEW



PLANET URANUS

Uranus is the seventh planet from the Sun, with a distance of 1.8 billion miles (2.9 billion km) from the Sun. It lies in the outer solar system. Uranus is the third largest planet with a diameter of 31,763 miles (51,118 km), and has a mass that is half times the mass of Earth. It is the only planet with a mass less than the solar system.

Uranus was formed about 4.5 billion years ago. It was the first planet discovered in the modern age. Most civilizations didn't see it because it was dim and it didn't have a dark shadow.

John Flamsteed first spotted Uranus in 1690, however, he thought it looked like a star. In 1781, William Herschel discovered Uranus by telescope (the first planet found by telescope). On March 13, 1781, he thought it was only a comet. Initially, 10 years later, Bessel decided it was a planet. He tried to name the planet "Georgium Sidus" after King George III, but others didn't like it. Finally, astronomer Johan Bode suggested the name Uranus, after the Greek god Cronus, the god of the sky and husband of the Earth. Uranus is the only planet named after a Greek god. Roman gods inspired the other planet names.

Uranus is similar to Jupiter and Saturn, with similar thick atmospheres of hydrogen and helium. However, Uranus has ice in the form of water, ammonia, methane, and traces of other hydrocarbons. Instead of being called a gas giant, Uranus is considered an ice giant (along with Neptune, its sister planet). The frozen elements on Uranus make it the coldest atmosphere of all of the planets in the solar system. The temperature can dip to -370 degrees Fahrenheit. Life (as we know it) can't exist here.

Uranus has a blue appearance due to the methane on the planet. Uranus has a small rocky center surrounded by water, methane, and ammonia fluids.

Similar to Jupiter and Saturn, Uranus has 13 faint rings. Astronomers think the rings formed 600 million years ago from

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colliding moons and other celestial objects. The outer rings are bright colors and easier to see. The inner rings are narrow and dark.

Uranus seems to be a peaceful planet, however, there are violent storms. There are also clouds on Uranus, but they are hard to see. Storms can be as big as the United States. The wind speeds on Uranus are some of the most intense in the entire solar system. In fact, they can exceed 560 miles per hour (900 km/hour). While the atmosphere is stormy, it's not as active as Saturn or Jupiter. Thus, Uranus has a uniform surface appearance.

There are currently 27 moons on Uranus, though more could be hidden in the rings. They are named after characters written by William Shakespeare and Alexander Pope. Some names include Miranda, Ariel, Umbriel, Puck, and Oberon. All of Uranus' biggest moons are smaller than Australia. One of the biggest moons, Umbriel, is very dark and mostly made from ice, with only a tiny portion from rock. The largest moons are called Titania.

Uranus is unique from the other planets because it spins on its side. Experiments show that a collision with an Earth-sized object or planet caused it to spin. If the planets spun on a table, they would spin like tops. Uranus, however, spins like a marble. Not only does it spin sideways, but Uranus spins in the opposite direction as Earth and most of the planets - east to west.

A day on Uranus is 10.7 hours and 14 minutes long. One year on Uranus equals 84 Earth days, just 84 Earth years. The north pole seasons on Uranus have 21 years of daytime in winter, 21 years of daytime in summer, and 42 years of day and night in the spring and fall. 2023 will mark Uranus' third year orbiting around the Sun since it was discovered in 1781.

Sometimes you can see Uranus in the night sky without binoculars or a telescope.

It was common to name a new discovery after a planet. In this case, Uranium was named after Uranus in 1789.

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