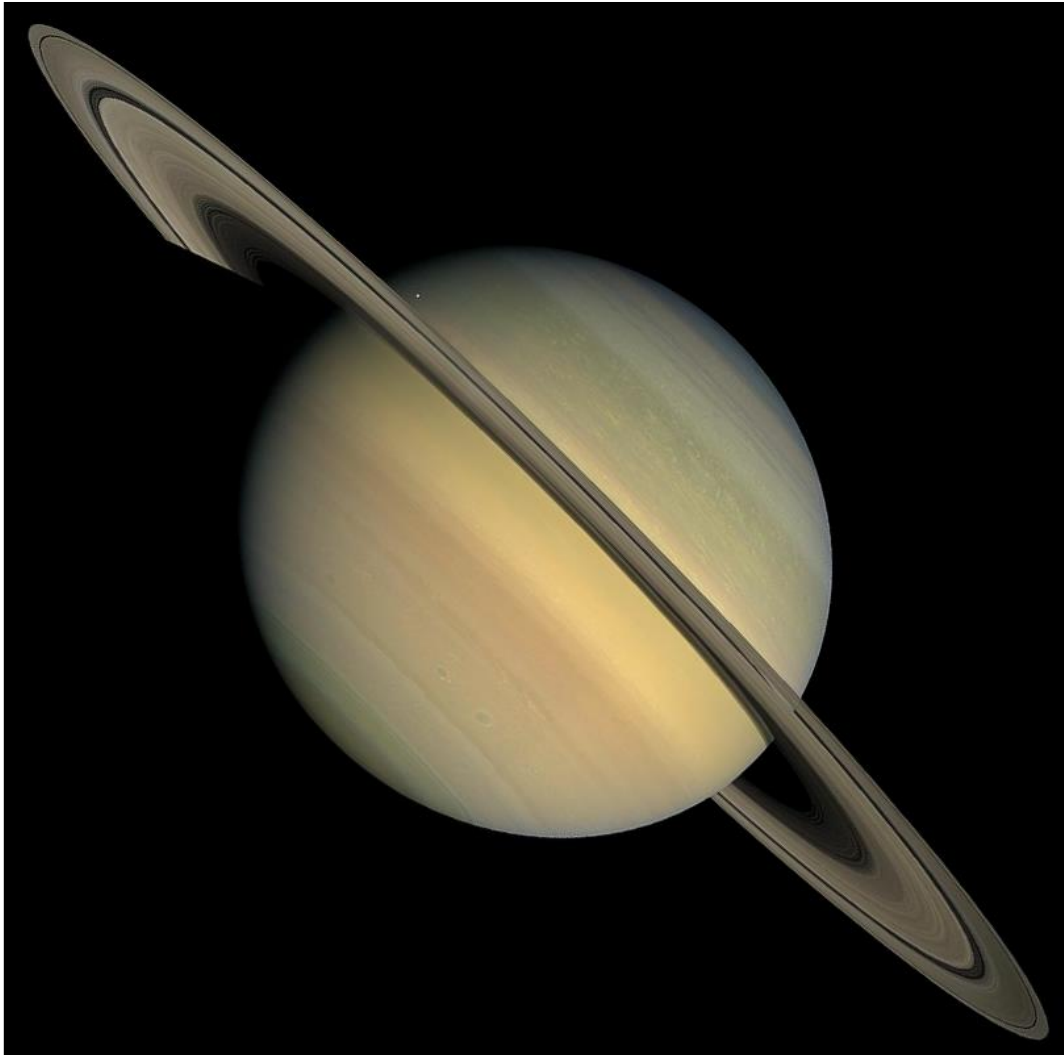


TAS > Saturn >

The two largest, Jupiter and Saturn, are gas giants, being composed mainly of hydrogen and helium

Saturn > Named after the Roman god Saturn



Equatorial Diameter:	120,536 km
Polar Diameter:	108,728 km
Mass:	5.68×10^{26} kg (95 Earths)
Moons:	82 (Titan, Enceladus, Iapetus & Rhea)
Rings:	30+ (7 Groups)
Orbit Distance:	1,426,666,422 km (9.58 AU)
Orbit Period:	10,756 days (29.5 years)
Surface Temperature:	-139 °C

The two largest, Jupiter and Saturn, are gas giants, being composed mainly of hydrogen and helium

Saturn > Named after the Roman god Saturn

Saturn was known to the ancients, including the Babylonians and Far Eastern observers. It is named for the Roman god Saturnus, and was known to the Greeks as Cronus.

Saturn is the flattest planet. Its polar diameter is 90% of its equatorial diameter, this is due to its low density and fast rotation. Saturn turns on its axis once every 10 hours and 34 minutes giving it the second-shortest day of any of the solar system's planets.

Saturn's upper atmosphere is divided into bands of clouds. The top layers are mostly ammonia ice. Below them, the clouds are largely water ice. Below are layers of cold hydrogen and sulfur ice mixtures.

Saturn has oval-shaped storms similar to Jupiter's. The region around its north pole has a hexagonal-shaped pattern of clouds. Scientists think this may be a wave pattern in the upper clouds. The planet also has a vortex over its south pole that resembles a hurricane-like storm.

Saturn is made mostly of hydrogen. It exists in layers that get denser farther into the planet. Eventually, deep inside, the hydrogen becomes metallic. At the core lies a hot interior.

Saturn has the most extensive rings in the solar system. The Saturnian rings are made mostly of chunks of ice and small amounts of carbonaceous dust. The rings stretch out more than 120,700 km from the planet, but are amazingly thin: only about 20 meters thick.

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Guide To Observing
Saturn

Introduction

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