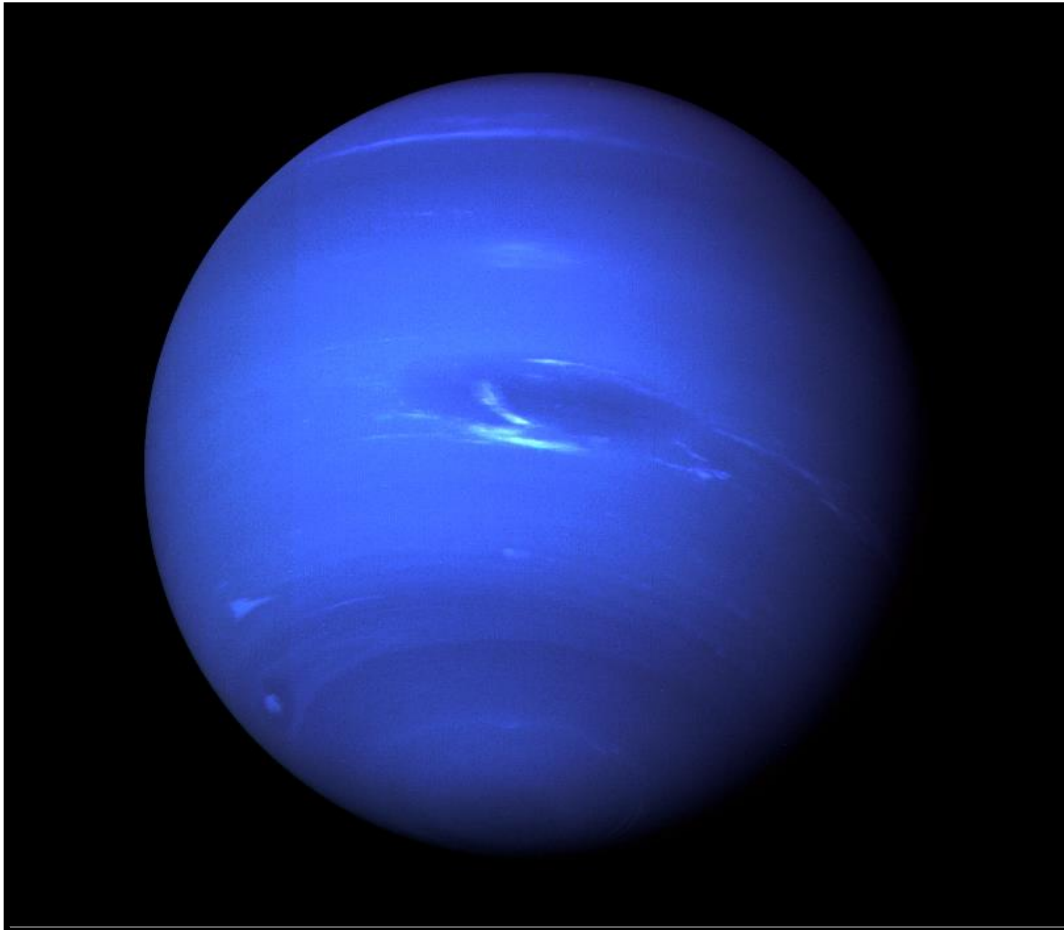


TAS > Neptune >

The two outermost planets, Uranus and Neptune, are ice giants, being composed mostly of substances with relatively high melting points compared with hydrogen and helium, called volatiles, such as water, ammonia and methane.

Neptune > Named after the Roman god of the sea



Equatorial Diameter:	49,528 km
Polar Diameter:	48,682 km
Mass:	1.02×10^{26} kg (17 Earths)
Moons:	14 (Triton)
Rings:	5
Orbit Distance:	4,498,396,441 km (30.10 AU)
Orbit Period:	60,190 days (164.8 years)
Surface Temperature:	-201 °C

The two outermost planets, Uranus and Neptune, are ice giants, being composed mostly of substances with relatively high melting points compared with hydrogen and helium, called volatiles, such as water, ammonia and methane.

Neptune > Named after the Roman god of the sea

Neptune is the most distant planet from the Sun.

Neptune is the smallest gas giant.

A year on Neptune lasts 165 Earth years.

Neptune has 6 faint rings.

Neptune was not known to the ancients. It is not visible to the naked eye and was first observed in 1846. Its position was determined using mathematical predictions. It was named after the Roman god of the sea.

The atmosphere of Neptune is made of hydrogen and helium, with some methane. The methane absorbs red light, which makes the planet appear a lovely blue. High, thin clouds drift in the upper atmosphere.

Neptune has a very active climate. Large storms whirl through its upper atmosphere, and high-speed winds track around the planet at up to 600 meters per second. One of the largest storms ever seen was recorded in 1989. It was called the Great Dark Spot. It lasted about five years.

Want To Know More?

Contact TAS >



Thaxted Astronomical Society

07789 933 111

ThaxtedAS@BTInternet.Com

www.ThaxtedAS.Com

