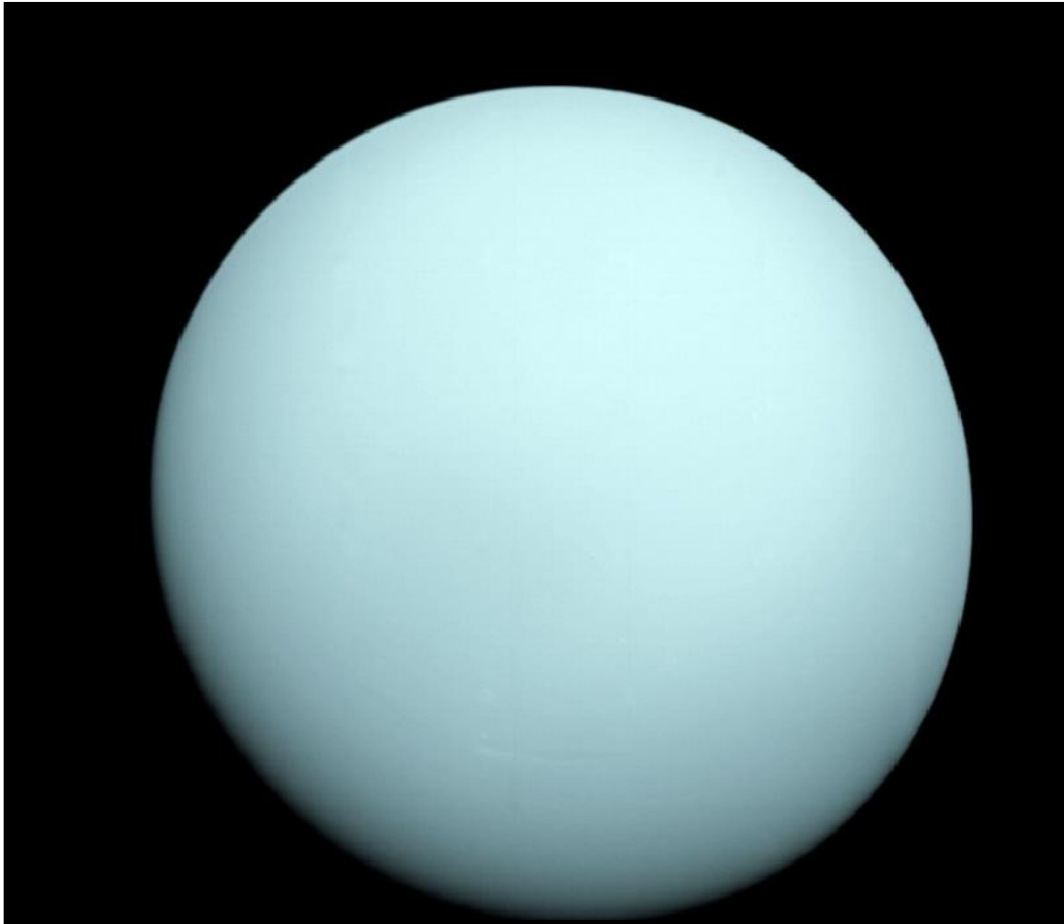




## TAS > Uranus >

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### Uranus > Named after the Greek god of the sky



<b>Equatorial Diameter:</b>	51,118 km
<b>Polar Diameter:</b>	49,946 km
<b>Mass:</b>	$8.68 \times 10^{25}$ kg (15 Earths)
<b>Moons:</b>	27 (Miranda, Titania, Ariel, Umbriel & Oberon)
<b>Rings:</b>	13
<b>Orbit Distance:</b>	2,870,658,186 km (19.22 AU)
<b>Orbit Period:</b>	30,687 days (84.0 years)
<b>Surface Temperature:</b>	-197 °C

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Uranus was officially discovered by Sir William Herschel in 1781. It is too dim to have been seen by the ancients. At first Herschel thought it was a comet, but several years later it was confirmed as a planet. Herschel tried to have his discovery named “Georgian Sidus” after King George III. The name Uranus was suggested by astronomer Johann Bode.

**Uranus** turns on its axis once every 17 hours, 14 minutes. The planet **rotates in a retrograde direction, opposite to the way Earth and most other planets turn.**

Uranus is often referred to as an “ice giant” planet. Like the other gas giants, it has a hydrogen upper layer, which has helium mixed in. Below that is an icy “mantle, which surrounds a rock and ice core. The upper atmosphere is made of water, ammonia and the methane ice crystals that give the planet its pale blue colour.

Uranus hits the coldest temperatures of any planet. With minimum atmospheric temperature of -224°C Uranus is nearly coldest planet in the solar system. While Neptune doesn't get as cold as Uranus it is on average colder. The upper atmosphere of Uranus is covered by a methane haze which hides the storms that take place in the cloud decks.

Want To Know More?

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