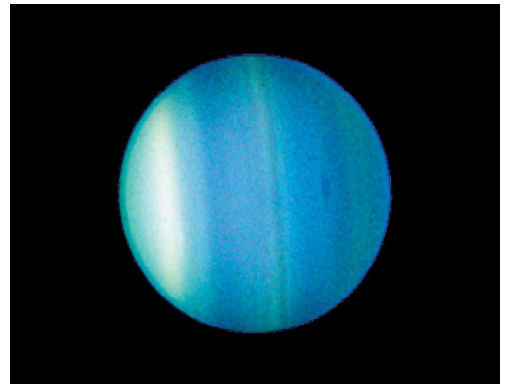




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# Uranus: The Sideways Planet

Uranus is the seventh planet from the Sun and one of the farthest planets in our solar system! It's a cold, icy giant with a blue-green color, and it has a very special feature: Uranus rotates on its side, unlike any other planet. Let's learn more about this chilly, tilted planet!



Uranus

Uranus looks blue-green because of a gas in its atmosphere called methane. This gas absorbs red light from the Sun and reflects blue and green light, giving Uranus its unique color. Uranus also has hydrogen and helium in its atmosphere, just like the other giant planets, Jupiter and Saturn.

Most planets spin upright, but Uranus spins sideways! Scientists believe that a long time ago, a huge object might have crashed into Uranus, knocking it onto its side. This tilt causes extreme seasons on Uranus. Each pole (the top and bottom of the planet) gets 42 years of sunlight, followed by 42 years of darkness!

Uranus is known as an ice giant because it's made of icy materials, like water, ammonia, and methane, deep inside the planet. Uranus is one of the coldest planets in our solar system, with temperatures that can drop to -371 degrees Fahrenheit! That's much colder than any place on Earth.

Like Saturn, Uranus has rings, but they are very faint and hard to see. Uranus has 13 thin rings made of small pieces of ice and rock that circle around the planet. These rings were discovered by telescopes and spacecraft, which help scientists see faraway planets up close.

Uranus has 27 known moons! Many of these moons are named after characters from famous plays by William Shakespeare, like Miranda, Titania, and Oberon. Some of Uranus's moons are small and icy, while others have interesting, rocky surfaces with cracks and craters.

Uranus is very far from Earth, so only one spacecraft has visited it so far. Voyager 2 flew by Uranus in 1986, sending back pictures and data that taught scientists a lot about this icy planet. Scientists hope to send more spacecraft to Uranus in the future to learn even more.



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### Fun Facts About Uranus

A day on Uranus is about 17 hours long.

Uranus takes 84 Earth years to orbit the Sun, so a year on Uranus is a very long time!

Because of its tilt, the rings of Uranus look vertical instead of flat like Saturn's.

1. What makes Uranus different from all other planets? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Why has only one spacecraft visited Uranus? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Why does Uranus spin sideways? \_\_\_\_\_

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