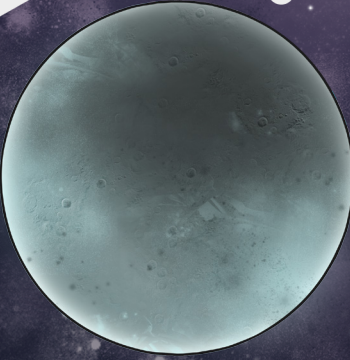


# Planetary Fact Cards



## Mercury

1st planet from the Sun

46-70 million km from the Sun

Discovered by:	Assyrian astronomers
Discovery date:	1400 BC
Named after:	Roman god of messengers
Temperature:	- 173°C (out of sunlight) to 420°C (in sunlight)
Colour:	Grey
Made of:	Iron and rock
Moons:	0
Days in a year:	88
Interesting Fact:	There are wrinkles on the surface which are called Lobate Scarps.



## Venus

2nd planet from the Sun

108.2 million km from the Sun

Discovered by:	Babylonian astronomers
Discovery date:	1700 BC
Named after:	Roman goddess of love
Temperature:	462°C
Colour:	Clouds of sulphuric acid make it look a burnt yellow colour.
Made of:	Rock
Moons:	0
Days in a year:	243
Interesting Fact:	Venus rotates the opposite way to the Earth (anti-clockwise).

# Mars



4<sup>th</sup> planet from the Sun

227.9 million km from the Sun

Discovered by: Egyptian astronomers

Discovery date: 2000 BC

Named after: Roman god of war

Temperature:  $-87^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $-5^{\circ}\text{C}$

Colour: Red

Made of: Rock (basalt)

Moons: 2: Phobos and Deimos

Days in a year: 687

Interesting Fact: Mars has the largest volcano in the solar system. Olympus Mons is 600 km wide and 21 km tall!

# Earth



3<sup>rd</sup> planet from the Sun

149.5 million km from the Sun

Named after:

It's not! Earth is the only planet not named after a Roman or Greek God. The word Earth comes from both English and German words, 'eor(th)e/ertha' and 'erde', which mean 'ground'.

Temperature:  $-88^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $58^{\circ}\text{C}$

Colour: Blue, green, white

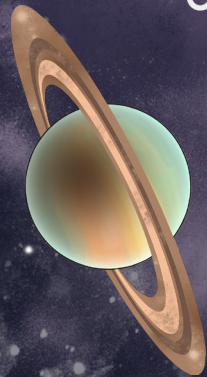
Made of: Rock and metal

Moons: 1

Days in a year: 365.25

Interesting Fact: The Earth is the only known planet that supports life. In order for this to happen, a planet needs to be in the 'Goldilocks zone'; which the Earth is!

# Saturn



6<sup>th</sup> planet from the Sun

1.433 billion km from the Sun

Discovered by: Assyrian astronomers

Discovery date: 800 BC

Named after: Roman god of many things including time and wealth

Temperature: -139°C

Colour: Mostly yellowish brown

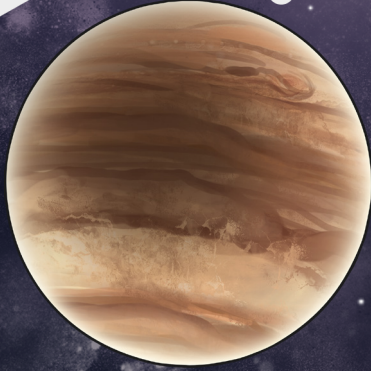
Made of: Gas (mainly hydrogen and helium)

Moons: 62; including Titan, Rhea and Enceladus

Days in a year: 10756

Interesting Fact: Saturn's rings are made up of ice and rocks. The exact number of rings is still debated and there is no firm answer yet!

# Jupiter



5<sup>th</sup> planet from the Sun

778.5 million km from the Sun

Discovered by: Babylonian astronomers

Discovery date: 800-700 BC

Named after: King of the Roman gods

Temperature: -87°C to -5°C

Colour: White, orange, red, brown and yellow

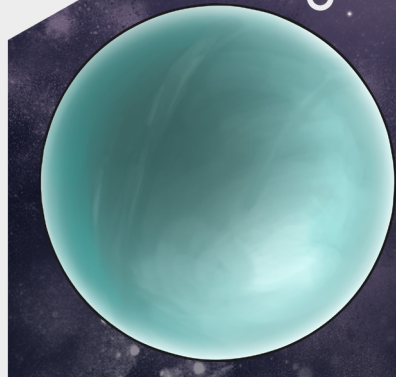
Made of: Gas (mainly hydrogen and helium)

Moons: 67; including Io, Europa and Callisto

Days in a year: 4333

Interesting Fact: Days are shorter in Jupiter – it takes 9 hours and 55 minutes to turn on its axis while it takes Earth 24 hours.

# Uranus



7<sup>th</sup> planet from the Sun

2.877 billion km from the Sun

Discovered by: William Herschel

Discovery date: March 31<sup>st</sup>, 1781

Named after: Greek god of the sky

Temperature: -197°C

Colour: blue-green

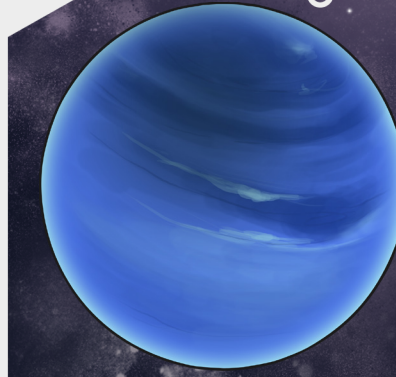
Made of: Ices (like water, ammonia and methane)

Moons: 27; including Oberon and Titania

Days in a year: 30687

Interesting Fact: Uranus is tilted 98° so it rotates in the opposite direction to the other planets in the solar system.

# Neptune



8<sup>th</sup> planet from the Sun

4.503 billion km from the Sun

Discovered by: Urbain Le Verrier and Johann Galle

Discovery date: September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1846

Named after: Roman god of the seas

Temperature: -201°C

Colour: Blue

Made of: Gas (mainly hydrogen and helium)

Moons: 14; including Triton

Days in a year: 60 190

Interesting Fact: The Great Dark Spot was the name of a storm on Neptune – it lasted 5 years!