

Our Universe - Solar System and The Moon(Part - 3)

Lunar Eclipse

It occurs when Moon passes into the shadow of the Earth. The Moon may remain eclipsed for about an hour.



Fig: Moon passing directly behind Earth and into its shadow.

Moon has no air and no atmosphere. This is the only celestial body on which human has landed. Neil Armstrong, an American astronaut first landed on the Moon's surface and took samples of lunar rock.

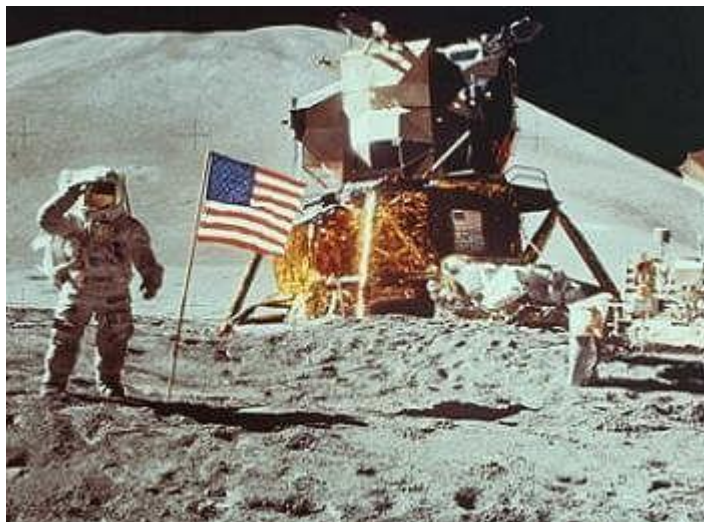


Fig: Neil Armstrong on the surface of the moon

Mars is the fourth planet from the Sun in our solar system. It is named after Roman god of war because of its colour is blood red. The cause of redness of the Mars is due

to the presence of iron rich soil and rock. There is no life on Mars but there could have been life long ago as it has signs of flowing rivers of water. Solar system's biggest volcano Olympus mons exists on this planet.



Fig: Mars

Mars has two moons, Deimos and Phobos. They look like baked potatoes.



Fig: Deimos



Fig: Phobos

Commonly Asked Questions

1. Which one of the following statements is correct about planets?

- (a) Planets move around the sun
- (b) Planets move around the earth
- (c) Planets move around the moon
- (d) Planets move around the comet
- (e) None of these

Answer: (a)

Explanation

Planets move around the Sun. Therefore, option (A) is correct and rest of the options is incorrect-

2. Which one of the following planets is named after the Roman god of war?

- (a) Earth
- (b) Uranus
- (c) Mars
- (d) Venus
- (e) None of these

Answer: (C)

Explanation

Mars is named after the Roman god of war. Therefore, option (C) is correct and rest of the options is incorrect.

Outer planets

Jupiter

Jupiter is the biggest and fifth planet in the solar system. It can accommodate in it all the planets of the solar system. Jupiter spins on its axis faster than our- planet (72 hours). It takes nearly 12 years to revolve around the Sun. It has very strong magnetic field. Multicolored belts of frozen crystals of water, ammonia and other chemicals are seen on this planets. This planet mainly consists of hydrogen storm in the upper atmosphere that could fit two earths inside it.

There are 16 known moons of Jupiter but about two dozens of moons have been discovered in the last few years. Io is Jupiter's closest moon. It smells like rotten egg because of the presence of sulphur from active volcanoes.

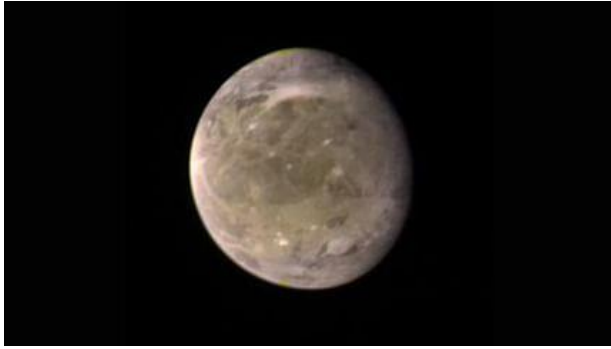


Fig: Ganymede

Note: Ganymede is the largest moon in the solar system. Callisto moon is fully covered in craters Europa, covered by thick crust ice.

Saturn

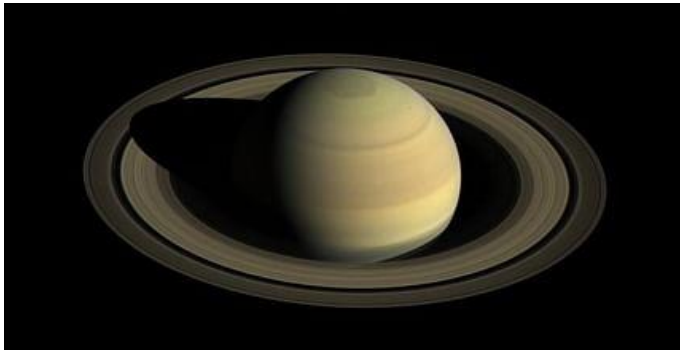


Fig: Saturn

Saturn is the second largest planet after Jupiter and sixth planet in the solar system. This planet is surrounded by millions of chunks of ice and rocks that follow an individual orbit around the planet. The rings of Saturn look very beautiful. Saturn has 18 moons.

Titan

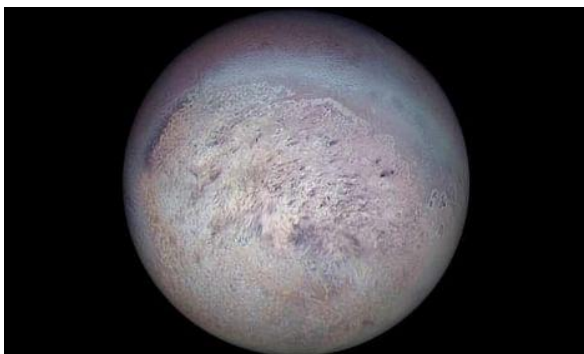


Fig: Saturn's largest moon 'Titan'

Titan is the largest moon of Saturn. Saturn is made up of liquids and gases. It is light enough to float.

Uranus



Fig: Uranus

Uranus is the seventh planet in the solar system. This is the only planet in the solar system that was found by an accident. The poles on Uranus are warmer than the equator. This planet is bluish green in colour because of the presence of methane gas. Uranus has 17 moons- Titania, umbriel, ariel and miranda are the moons of this planet. Uranus is named after the Greek god of the sky.

Neptune

Neptune is the eighth planet in the solar system and has pulling power. It is pulling Uranus. Since it's the last planet in the solar system, it takes approximately 164,8 years to orbit around the sun. There are lots of storm on this planet.

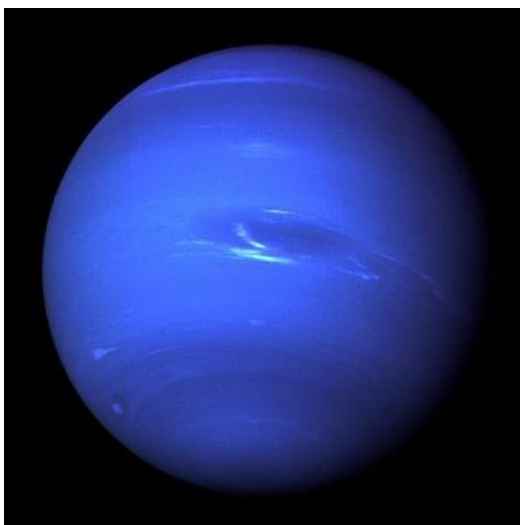


Fig: Neptune

Neptune and its moons are extremely cold places. It has 8 moons recorded.

Neptune' north and south poles look pink because of frozen nitrogen.

Triton

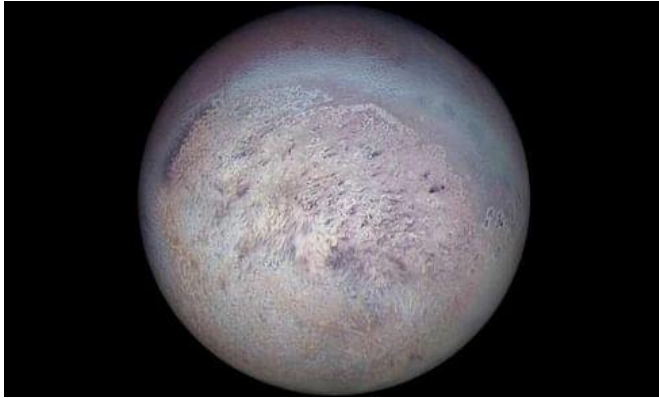


Fig: Neptune's moon "Triton"

Triton, one of the moon of Neptune is one of the coldest place ever recorded.

Commonly Asked Questions:

Which one of the following is an outer planet?

- (a) Jupiter
- (b) Mars
- (c) Earth
- (d) Venus
- (e) None of these

Answer: (a)

Explanation

Jupiter out of the given planets is the only outer planet. Therefore, option (A) is correct and rest of the options is incorrect.

Ganymede is a satellite of which one of the following planets?

- (a) Mars
- (b) Jupiter
- (c) Saturn
- (d) Earth
- (e) None of these

Answer: (b)

Explanation

Ganymede is a satellite of Jupiter. Therefore, option (B) is correct and rest of the options is incorrect.