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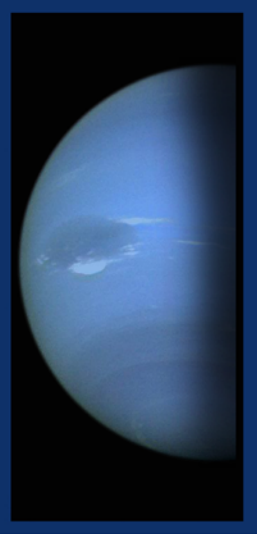
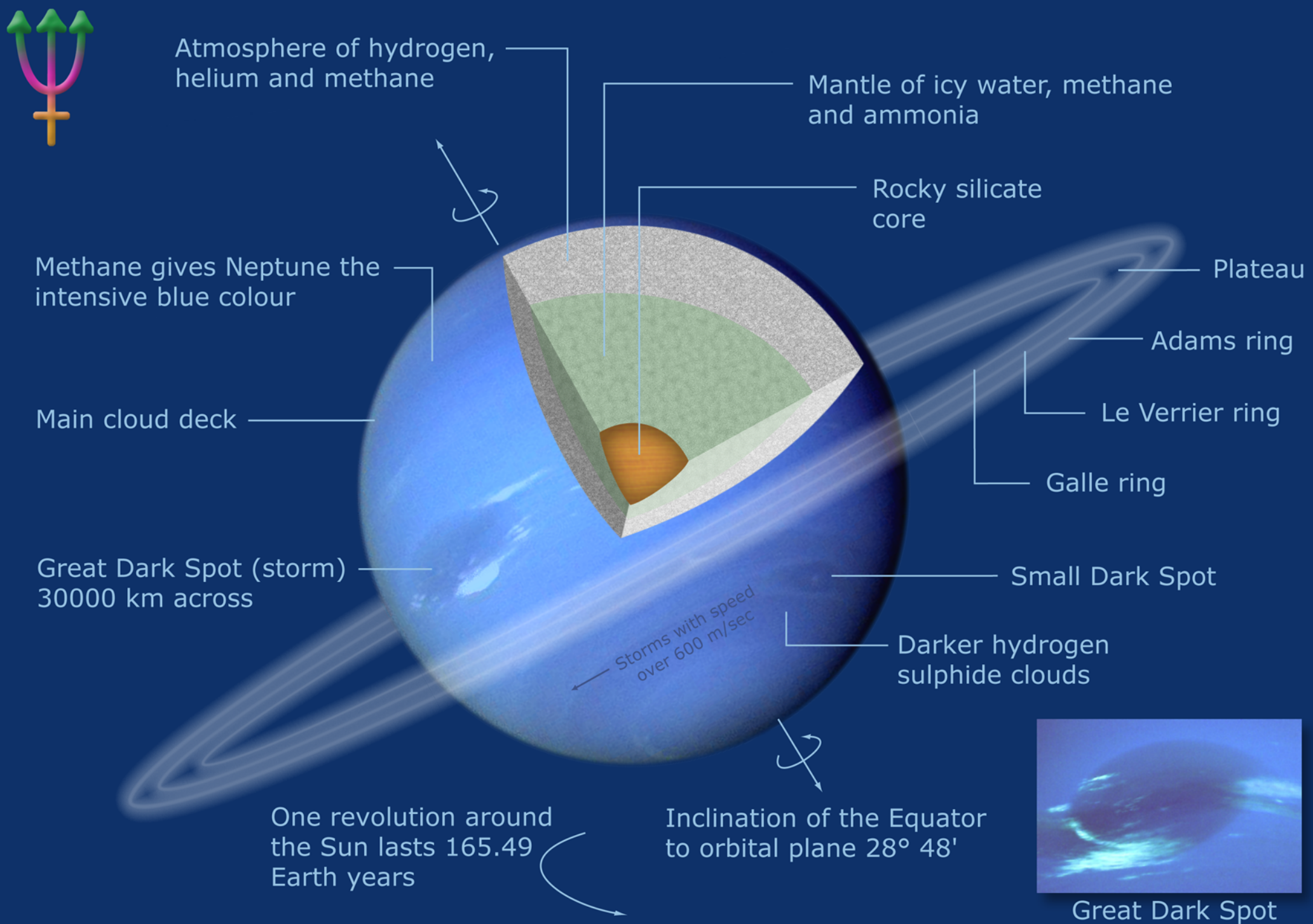
Summary Information Sheet

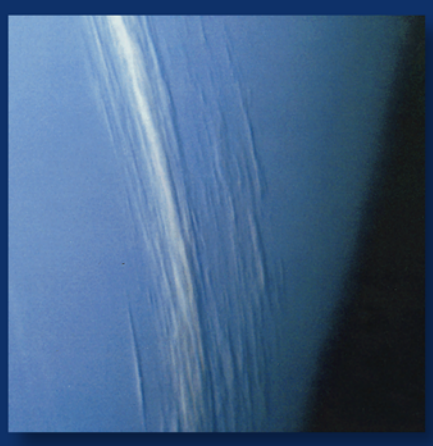
NEPTUNE

Neptune, named after the Roman god of the sea, is the eighth major planet from the Sun and the most distant gas giant. It was discovered in 1846 because of its gravitational effects on the orbit of Uranus. A fascinating feature in its atmoshere is the Great Dark Spot, which rotates around the planet.

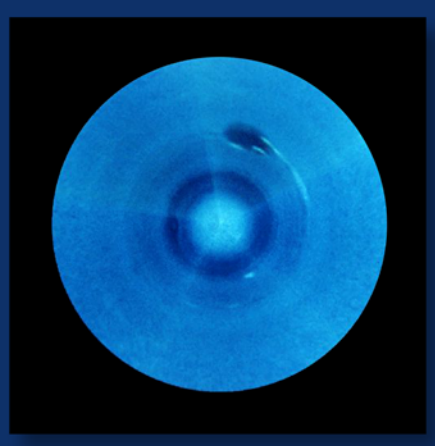




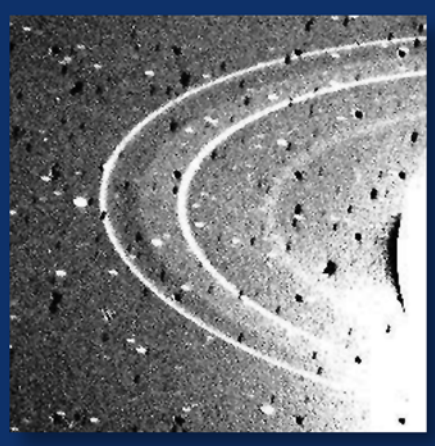
Great Dark Spot



Clouds



South Pole



Rings

Triton

Physical Data

Property	Neptune	Uranus	Earth
Distance from the Sun	4509 million km	2884 million km	150 million km
Rotation period	16 hrs 03 min	17 hrs 14 min	23 hrs 56 min
Equatorial radius	24764 km	25559 km	6378 km
Mass	1.02×10^{26} kg	8.68×10^{25} kg	5.97×10^{24} kg
Density	1760 kg/m^3	1300 kg/m^3	5520 kg/m^3
Satellites	12$^+$	25$^+$	1

For comparison

Images: ESO, ESA, NASA, except otherwise stated

Concept: B. Mackowiak