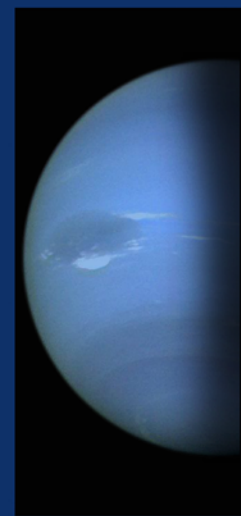


Summary Information Sheet

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 atmosphere is the Great Dark Spot, which rotates around the planet.



Atmosphere of hydrogen, helium and methane

Mantle of icy water, methane and ammonia

Rocky silicate core

Methane gives Neptune the intensive blue colour

Plateau

Main cloud deck

Adams ring

Le Verrier ring

Great Dark Spot (storm) 30000 km across

Galle ring

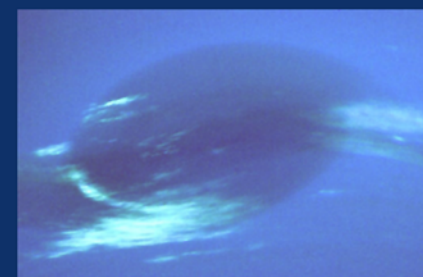
Small Dark Spot

Storms with speed over 600 m/sec

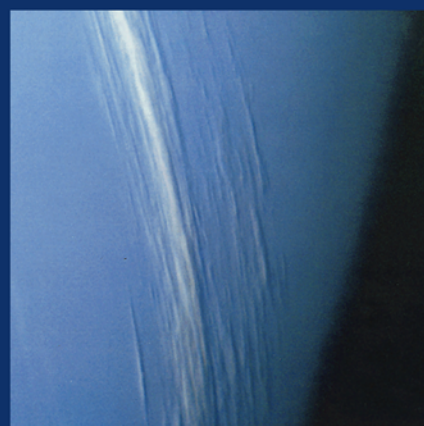
Darker hydrogen sulphide clouds

One revolution around the Sun lasts 165.49 Earth years

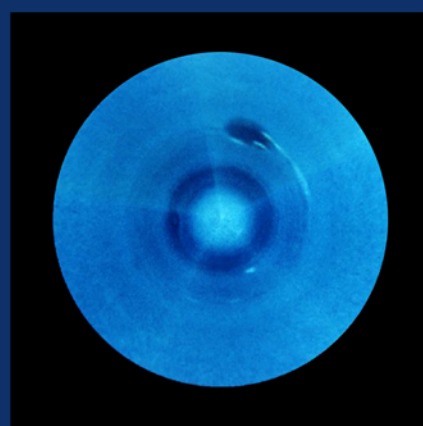
Inclination of the Equator to orbital plane 28° 48'



Great Dark Spot



Clouds



South Pole



Rings



Triton

Physical Data

Property
Distance from the Sun
Rotation period
Equatorial radius
Mass
Density
Satellites

Neptune
4509 million km
16 hrs 03 min
24764 km
1.02×10^{26} kg
1760 kg/m^3
12+

For comparison

Uranus
2884 million km
17 hrs 14 min
25559 km
8.68×10^{25} kg
1300 kg/m^3
25+

Earth
150 million km
23 hrs 56 min
6378 km
5.97×10^{24} kg
5520 kg/m^3
1