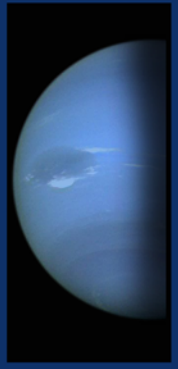


Summary Information Sheet

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

Great Dark Spot (storm) 30000 km across

Le Verrier ring

Galle ring

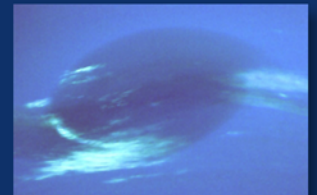
Small Dark Spot

Storms with speed over 600 m/sec

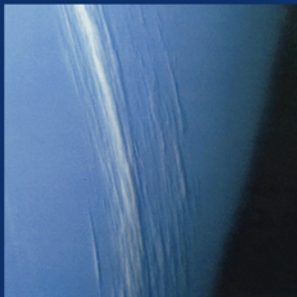
Darker hydrogen sulphide clouds

One revolution around the Sun lasts 165.49 Earth years

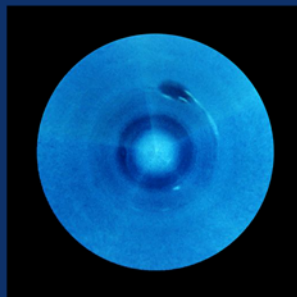
Inclination of the Equator to orbital plane 28° 48'



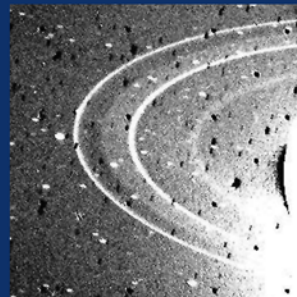
Great Dark Spot



Clouds



South Pole



Rings



Triton

Physical Data

For comparison

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