

Saturn

Saturn, named after the Roman god, is the second largest planet in our solar system and the sixth planet from the Sun. It is composed primarily of hydrogen, helium, and methane. Saturn is so light that it would float in water. It has an average temperature of about -288 degrees Fahrenheit with wind speeds of more than 1,000 mph.

Saturn has thousands of rings made up of billions of particles of ice and rock. Scientists think that the rings came from the destruction of moons that circled the planet. Each ring orbits the planet at a different speed.

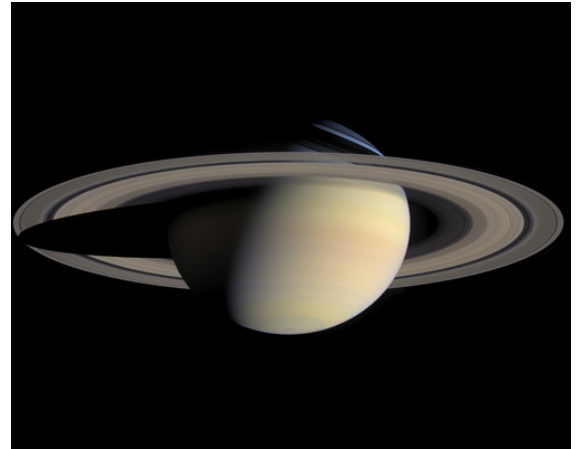


Image courtesy of <http://solarsystem.nasa.gov>

Saturn has at least 53 moons, with the largest being Titan. Titan is the second largest moon in our solar system. Titan is the only satellite in our solar system known to have an atmosphere, which consists of nitrogen and methane, and is the most Earth-like object in the solar system.

Saturn rotates on its axis every 10.656 hours and orbits the Sun in 29.4 Earth years.

After reading the information above, fold your paper on the line and try to answer the questions below without referring back to the data. (Check the box with the correct answer.)

1. Saturn has thousands of _____.
 moons rings storms
2. What is the largest natural satellite of Saturn?
 Earth Venus Titan
3. About how many years does it take Saturn to orbit the Sun?
 29 19 53
4. Saturn is the _____ largest planet in our solar system.
 second third fourth
5. The rings of Saturn are made of _____.

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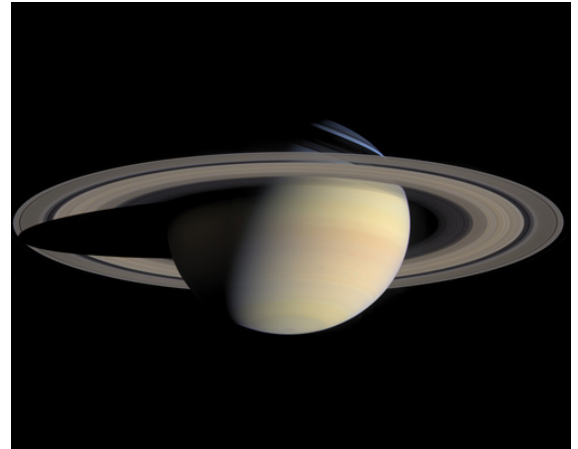


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