

# Uranus

Uranus, named after the Greek god of the sky, is the seventh planet from our Sun and the third largest planet in our solar system.

Uranus is one of the gas giants and its atmosphere consists primarily of hydrogen, helium, and methane with trace amounts of water and ammonia. Uranus gets its blue-green color from the methane gas.

The atmospheric temperature on Uranus is extremely cold, with temperatures as low as -357 degrees Fahrenheit. Uranus is over 12,000 degrees Fahrenheit at its rocky core. Winds on Uranus reach speeds of over 370 mph.



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

Uranus has 13 rings and at least 27 moons. The rings around Uranus are made mostly of dust.

Uranus rotates on its axis almost horizontally. Scientists think that this unusual orientation may be the result of a collision with a large body early in Uranus' history. Uranus rotates on its axis every 17.24 hours and orbits the Sun in 84.02 Earth Years.

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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.)

- Uranus rotates almost \_\_\_\_\_ on its axis?  
 vertically       horizontally       diagonally
- Uranus has thirteen of these.  
 rings       moons       hot spots
- Uranus may be as hot as \_\_\_\_\_ degrees Fahrenheit at its core.  
 2,000       22,000       12,000
- How many Earth years does it take Uranus to orbit the Sun?  
 84.02       28.04       42.08

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