

# SATURN

Saturn is the least dense planet in the Solar System and it is not actually a sphere like other planets. Saturn is spinning so quickly on its axis that it has flattened into a spheroid.

Although Galileo Galilei studied Saturn in 1610 he thought the rings were actually 2 moons with one on either side of the planet. It was not until 1655 that the Dutch astronomer Christian Huygens observed Saturn's rings which were thin, flat and at no point touched Saturn. He was also the first person to discover Saturn's largest moon (the second largest moon in the Solar System) and named it Titan.

Scientists are not sure how Saturn's rings were formed. It may have been an ice moon which was torn apart by Saturn's gravity or material left over from when Saturn first formed.

Only 4 spacecraft sent from Earth have ever visited Saturn, and three of these were just brief flybys. The first was Pioneer 11, in 1979, which flew within 20,000 km of Saturn, Voyager 1 in 1980 and Voyager 2 in 1981. It wasn't until Cassini's arrived in 2004 that a spacecraft actually went into orbit around Saturn and captured photographs of the planet and its rings and moons. No further missions are planned.

Scientists think that there might be life on Saturn's moon Enceladus. NASA's Cassini spacecraft recently discovered ice geysers on Enceladus' southern pole. This means that the moon is warm enough that water can remain a liquid underneath the surface. NASA thinks that if there is water there must be life.

So there is still a lot to learn about Saturn. Using the alien language code breaker below see if you can discover why scientists called this planet Saturn.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
⓵	Ⓠ	Ⓡ	Ⓢ	Ⓣ	Ⓤ	Ⓥ	Ⓦ	Ⓧ	Ⓨ	Ⓩ	ⓐ	ⓑ

N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
ⓓ	ⓔ	ⓕ	ⓖ	ⓗ	ⓘ	ⓙ	ⓚ	ⓛ	ⓜ	ⓞ	ⓟ	ⓠ

Ⓥ   ⓞ   Ⓦ   ⓵   Ⓢ   ⓵   ⓓ   Ⓡ   Ⓡ   Ⓡ   Ⓡ  
           

Ⓡ   Ⓡ   ⓓ   Ⓢ   ⓞ   ⓔ   ⓞ   ⓔ  
         

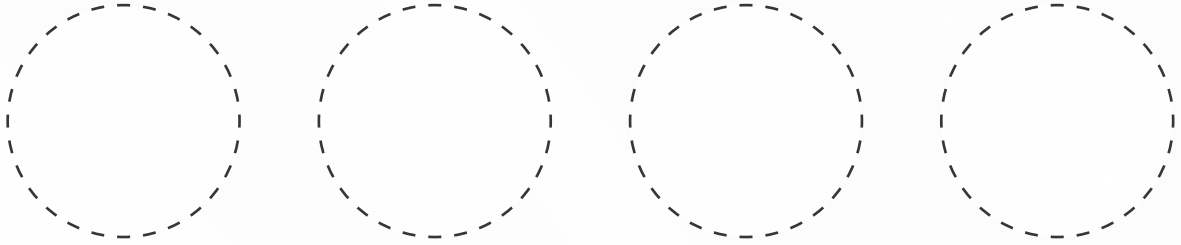


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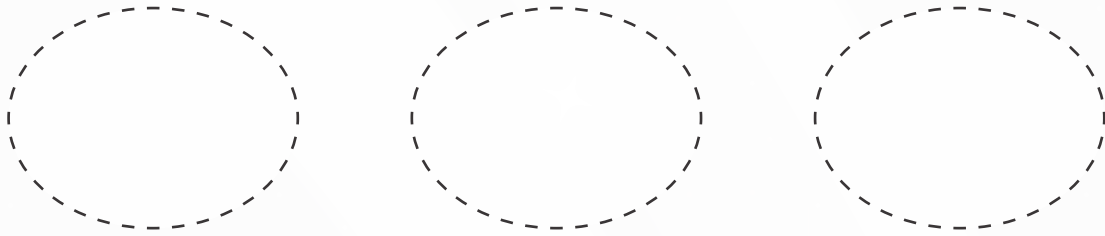
Saturn is the 6th planet from the sun but it has the second largest moon in the Solar System named Titan. It is surrounded by a ring of rocks and ice. It spins so fast that it is not actually a sphere like other planets but has flattened into a spheroid.

Trace the circles and ovals below of Titan, Saturn and its ring.

## TITAN



## SATURN



## RING

