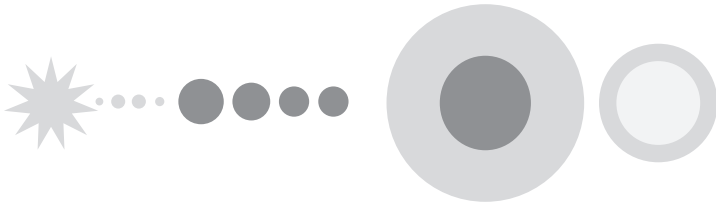


THE GAS GIANTS

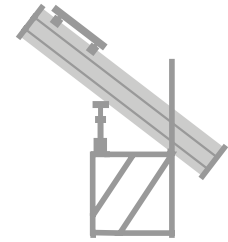


In our Solar System the four outermost planets are the gas giants: Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.

Have thick hydrogen and helium rich atmospheres. Jupiter and Saturn have predominantly metallic hydrogen cores. Uranus and Neptune have large icy cores.



Named for Roman gods except for Uranus which is the Latinised form of the Greek sky god, Ouranos.



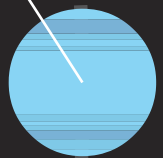
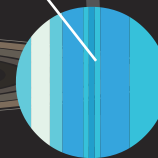
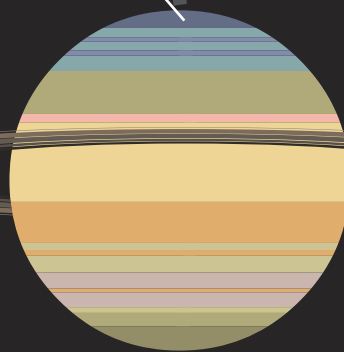
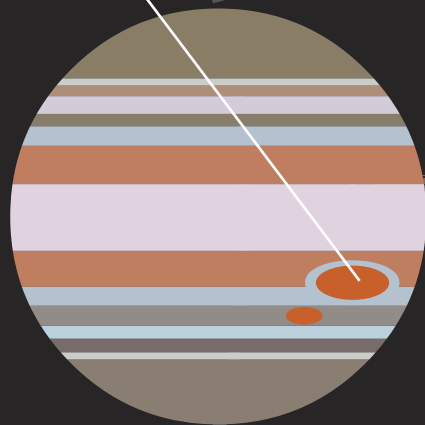
Jupiter and Saturn were known in ancient times. Uranus was discovered by telescope in 1781. Neptune's existence was inferred from oddities in Uranus's orbit in 1846.

The Great Red Spot is a 350+ year old storm the size of 2-3 Earths

Has hexagonal-shaped storm at north pole due to steep wind speed differences

Spins on its side possibly due to massive collisions with two protoplanets

Has highest wind speeds in Solar System at 2100 km/h



	JUPITER	SATURN	URANUS	NEPTUNE
SIZE (RADIUS)	11.2 x Earth	9.4 x Earth	4 x Earth	3.8 x Earth
CLOUD/CORE °C	-145/24 000	-175/11 700	-224/4737	-218/7000
RINGS	Faint	Extensive	Intermediate	Faint
MOONS	67	62	27	14