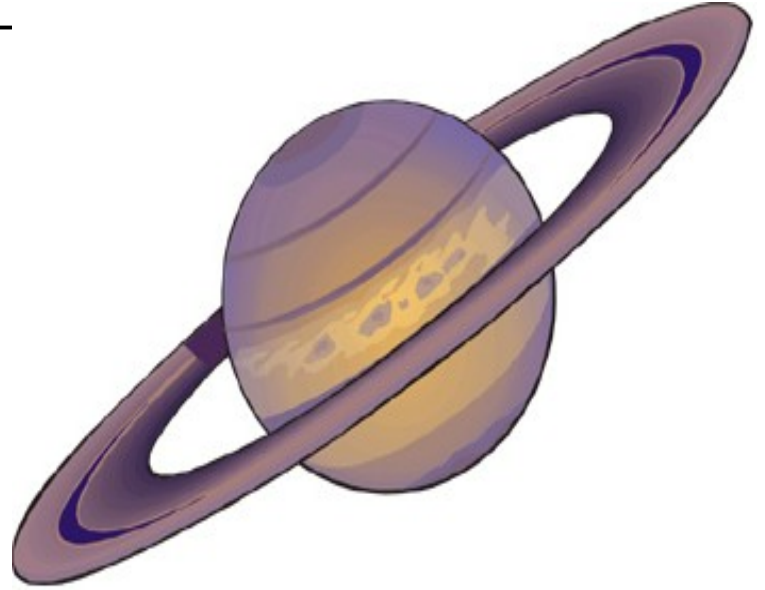


Name: _____

Saturn

by Cynthia Sherwood



If you don't count Earth, the most beautiful planet in our solar system may be Saturn. Saturn has seven thin rings that surround its middle but don't actually touch it. The rings are made of billions of pieces of ice and can only be seen with a telescope.

You can spot the rest of Saturn using only your eyes. It's the second largest planet in the solar system and it's the third brightest planet in the sky. It usually looks yellow.

Saturn is the sixth planet from the sun and is named after the Roman god of Agriculture. Scientists believe Saturn is a giant ball of gas, with no solid surface. Inside they think there's a hot solid core of rocky material, surrounded by an outer core of gas. Saturn is considered one of the four "gas giant" planets.

If you've ever been through a hurricane, you know what extremely strong winds are like. But even a hurricane is nothing compared to the winds on Saturn. Its strongest winds blow at more than a 1,000 miles per hour (1,600 kilometers per hour)! Saturn is also quite cold because it's so far from the sun. The temperature is about 285 degrees below zero Fahrenheit (minus 176 Celsius).

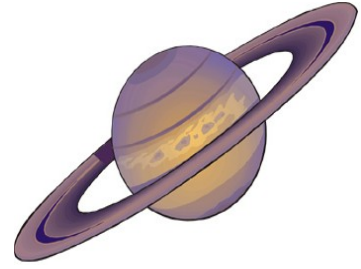
In 2004, a spacecraft named the "Cassini" began to orbit Saturn. This was the first in-depth and close-up view of the planet. Cassini has given us amazing pictures of Saturn, its rings, and its moons. Scientists have discovered that Saturn's largest moon—named Titan—is similar to Earth before there was life.

By the way, if you were born on Saturn, you'd have to wait a long time for your birthday to arrive. The length of a Saturn year is 29.5 Earth years, because that's how long it takes Saturn to rotate around the sun.

Name: _____

Saturn

by Cynthia Sherwood



1. Write **yes** or **no** to answer each question.

Can you see Saturn's rings without a telescope? _____

Can you see Saturn without a telescope? _____

Is Saturn the third planet from the sun? _____

Is Saturn the only "gas giant" planet? _____

Is Saturn the second largest planet in our solar system? _____

2. Why is Saturn so cold?

4. What do scientists believe is in the middle of Saturn?

5. Which would not be a good nickname for Saturn?

a. the "Ringed Planet"

b. the "Windy Planet"

c. the "Beautiful Gas Planet"

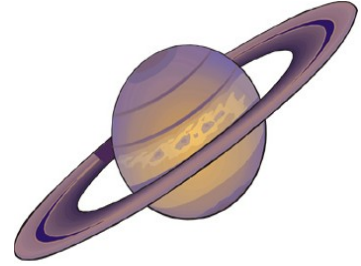
d. the "Blue-Green Planet"

Challenge: One Saturn year equals 29.5 Earth years. If you were three years old on Saturn, how old would you be on Earth? Use your math skills!

ANSWER KEY

Saturn

by Cynthia Sherwood



1. Write **yes** or **no** to answer each question.

Can you see Saturn's rings without a telescope? **no**

Can you see Saturn without a telescope? **yes**

Is Saturn the third planet from the sun? **no**

Is Saturn the only "gas giant" planet? **no**

Is Saturn the second largest planet in our solar system? **yes**

2. Why is Saturn so cold?

Saturn is so cold because it is so far away from the sun.

4. What do scientists believe is in the middle of Saturn?

A hot, solid core of rocky material.

5. Which would not be a good nickname for Saturn? **d**

a. the "Ringed Planet"

b. the "Windy Planet"

c. the "Beautiful Gas Planet"

d. **the "Blue-Green Planet"**

Challenge: One Saturn year equals 29.5 Earth years. If you were three years old on Saturn, how old would you be on Earth? Use your math skills!

$29.5 \times 3 = 88.5$ Earth years