

Uranus

By Cindy Grigg

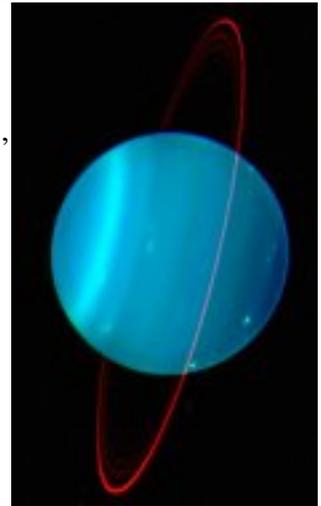
¹ Uranus (pronounced YOOR un nus) is the seventh planet from the sun. It is 1 billion, 783 million miles from the sun. Uranus is more than 19 times farther from the sun than Earth is. It is so far away from the sun that light takes two hours and forty minutes to get there! Uranus is so far from the sun that it is very, very cold.

² Uranus is a gas giant with a rocky center. It does not have a solid surface. It is the third largest planet. It is about four times bigger than Earth. It has 27 moons. Uranus looks blue-green. A thick haze covers the planet. Uranus is a sideways planet!

³ A year on Uranus is 84 Earth-years long. One day is 17 hours long.

⁴ It has some rings. The rings are thin and dark. The rings go around the top and bottom of the planet instead of around the middle like Saturn's rings.

Another interesting fact about Uranus is that it spins on its side. Instead of its poles being at the top and bottom of the planet, Uranus' poles are on the sides. Astronomers think that Uranus may have been hit by something really big a long time ago. This may have knocked the planet over on its side.



Uranus

<p>1. Uranus is the _____ planet from the sun.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Seventh</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B Eighth</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C Sixth</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D Fifth</p>	<p>2. Uranus is the _____ largest planet.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Third</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B Second</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C Fourth</p>
<p>3. Uranus has a solid surface just like Earth.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A False</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B True</p>	<p>4. Uranus is called a _____.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Gas giant</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B Rocky planet</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C Dwarf planet</p>
<p>5. A year on Uranus is _____.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A The same as a year on Earth</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B 84 Earth-years</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C 27 Earth-years</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D 19 Earth-years</p>	<p>6. A day on Uranus is _____.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A 27 hours</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B 84 hours</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C 17 hours</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D The same as a day on Earth</p>
<p>7. What is unusual about Uranus' rings?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A They go around the top and bottom of the planet.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B They are dark.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C They go from side to side on the planet.</p>	<p>8. What did the author mean when she said, "Uranus is a sideways planet"?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Uranus spins on its side.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B Uranus' poles aren't on the north and south; they are on the sides.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C Uranus' rings are sideways.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D All of the above</p>

