

NEPTUNE

- Neptune is the eighth and last major planet from the sun.

- Neptune is the fourth largest of planets by diameter, the third largest by mass. You could fit 57 earths inside Neptune.

- Neptune was found when the orbit of Uranus appeared to be perturbed by an unseen body. The unseen body was Neptune (more at end).

- Spins fast at 16 earth hours per day



1.)

- Unlike Uranus, Neptune's has active, visible weather patterns. It has the highest recorded wind speed of any planet in the solar system with approximate velocities up to 1200 miles per hour.

- Neptune's magnetosphere (i.e., its magnetic field) is produced by a layer of convective liquids that move (due to the planet's rotation) close to the core.

- More about its discovery: Galileo saw Neptune in 1612, but because it was at the apex of its retrograde motion it appeared to be stationary. As a consequence, he listed it simply as a very bright star. It wasn't until 1821 that the perturbation of Uranus's orbit led to the discovery of Neptune, the planet.

3.)

- Referred to as one of the "ice giants," Neptune composition is similar to that of Uranus.

- Neptune has 13 moons. Triton orbits opposite the direction of Neptune's rotation and has geysers that erupt liquid nitrogen

- It takes Neptune 164.8 earth years to orbit the sun once.

- It takes Neptune 367.5 earth days to spin once about its axis.

- Neptune's surface temperature averages at approximately 55 degrees Kelvin, but its core temperature is around 7000 degrees Centigrade (this is similar to the core temperatures of most of the planets in the solar system).

- Neptune has a very weak ring system.

- Has a 700 m/hr cloud called the great dark spot

- Has a white plume clouds called "scooter" that orbits Neptune every 16 hrs.

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