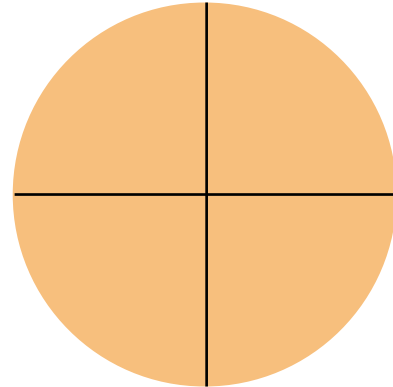


Make a Solar System Mobile

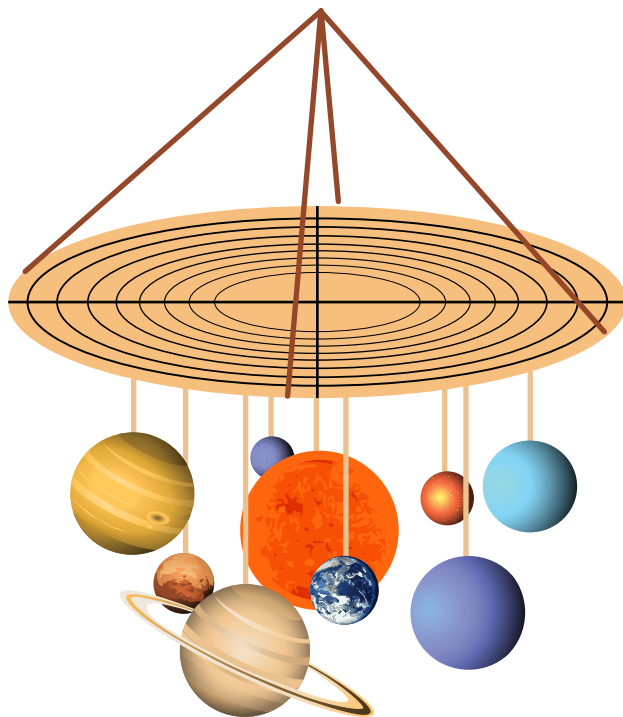
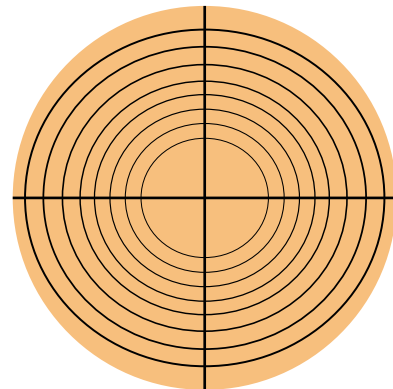
You will need:

- String or yarn
- Tape or glue
- Scissors
- Hole punch or large nail
- Cardboard circle (one from a pizza works great)



1. Print out the sun and 8 planets on the following pages. Cut out each planet. (If you want, print out two of each planet and glue them together so that each planet has two sides.) Attach a piece of string to each with a piece of tape.

2. Draw a cross down the center of a round piece of cardboard. Then, using a compass, draw 8 circles, each bigger than the last. These will be the orbits of your planets.



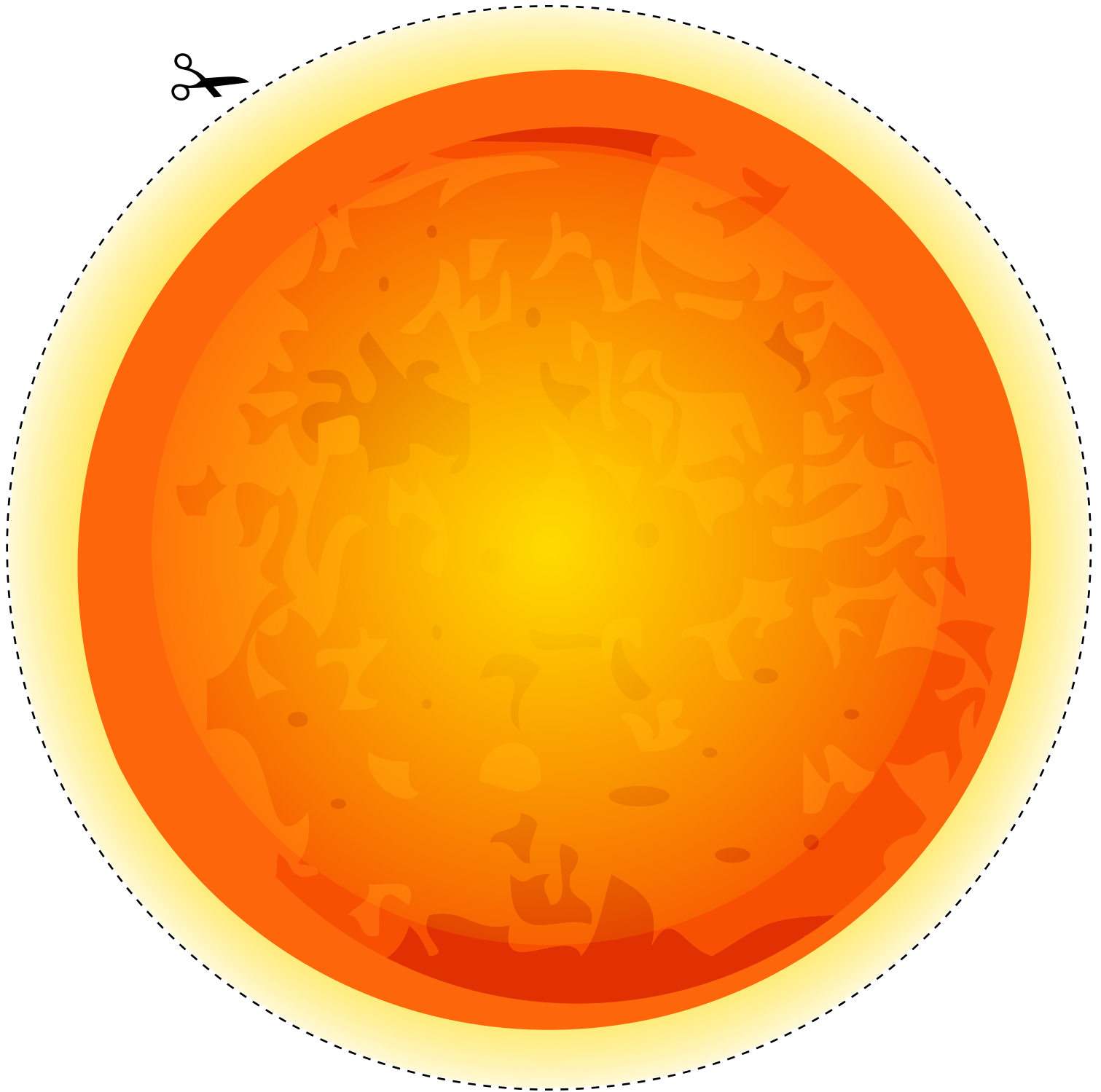
3. With a hole punch or a large nail, make holes in the middle of the cardboard for the sun. Then punch a hole on each orbit, spacing them out. Attach the sun in the middle, and each planet on its orbit in this order, from closest to the sun to farthest: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.

4. To hang your solar system mobile, make four holes on the edge of the cardboard circle and tie on four pieces of string, then tie them together.

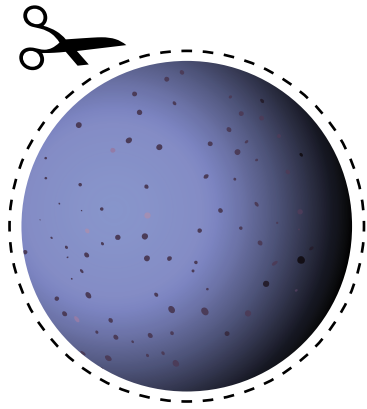
Make a Solar System Mobile

The Sun

The sun is much too big to show in accurate proportion to the planets, so we will just make it the biggest. Without the warmth and light of the sun, nothing could survive on our planet.



Make a Solar System Mobile



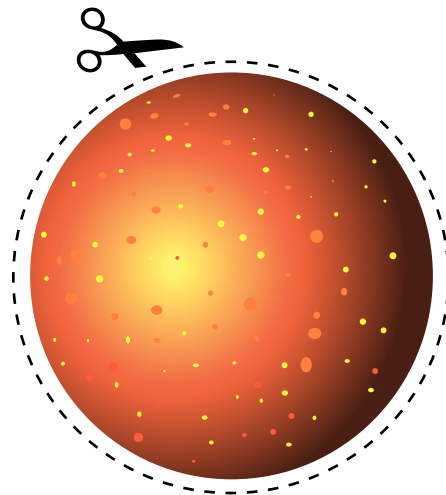
Mercury

Mercury is the closest planet to the sun. The surface of this barren planet is covered with craters. These craters have been created by thousands of years of being hit with asteroids and comets. There is no atmosphere on Mercury.

Venus

Venus is second closest to the sun. It is the hottest planet in the solar system.

It is the brightest of all the planets, and is also known as the evening star and the morning star.



Make a Solar System Mobile



Earth

The Earth is the third planet from the sun, and the fifth largest of the eight planets in our solar system. It was formed 4.5 billion years ago, and life appeared on its surface within 1 billion years. Earth is home to millions of species, including humans — and that means you!

Mars

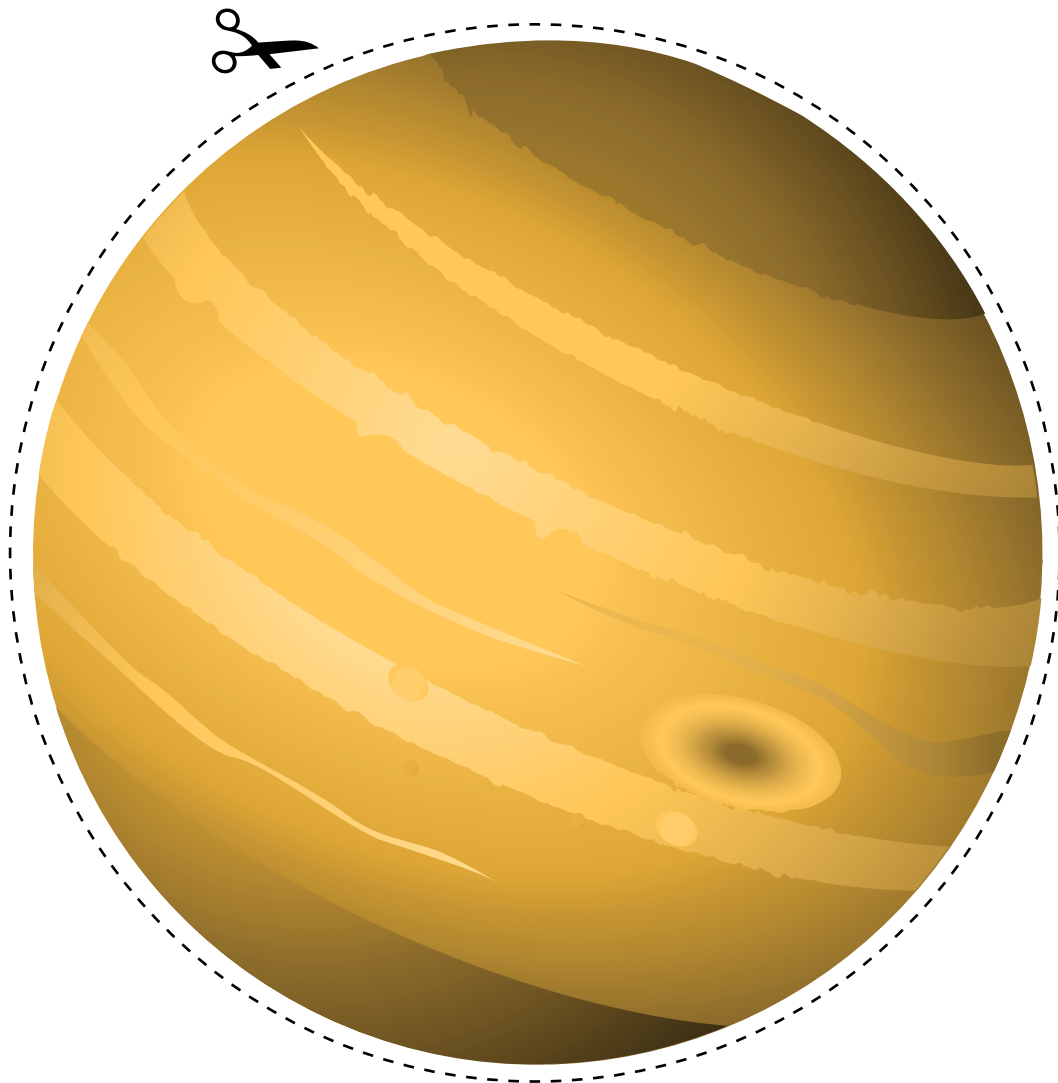
Mars has three moons, and has the nickname "The Red Planet." Mars is the only planet whose surface can be seen in detail from the Earth. Mars is the fourth closest planet to the sun.



Make a Solar System Mobile

Jupiter

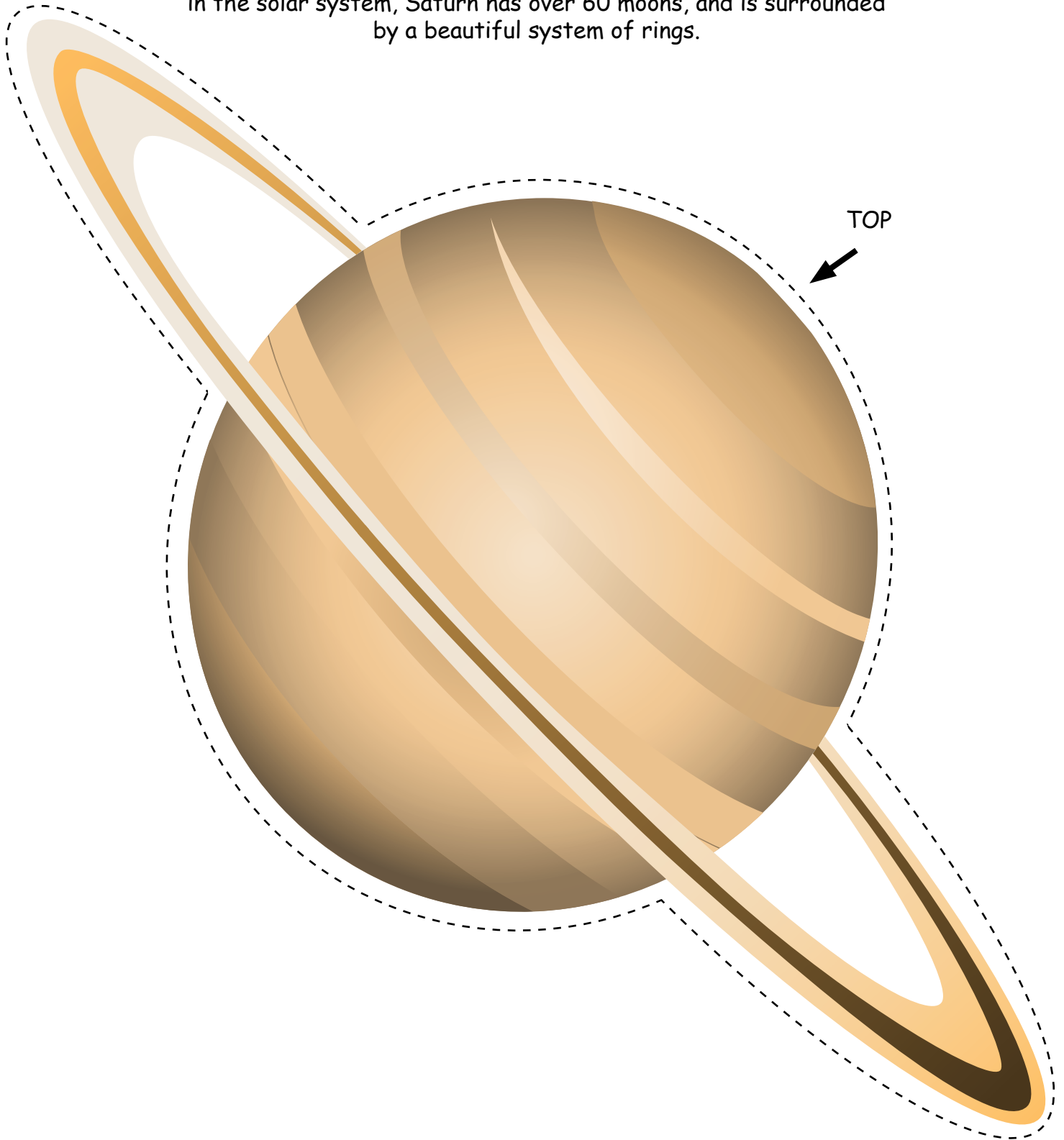
Jupiter is the largest planet in the solar system, and the fifth closest planet to our sun. If you weigh 100 pounds on Earth, you would weigh 264 pounds on Jupiter. Jupiter rotates faster than any other planet. It rotates so quickly that the days are only 10 hours long. The great red spot on Jupiter is a storm that has been going on for over 300 years.



Make a Solar System Mobile

Saturn

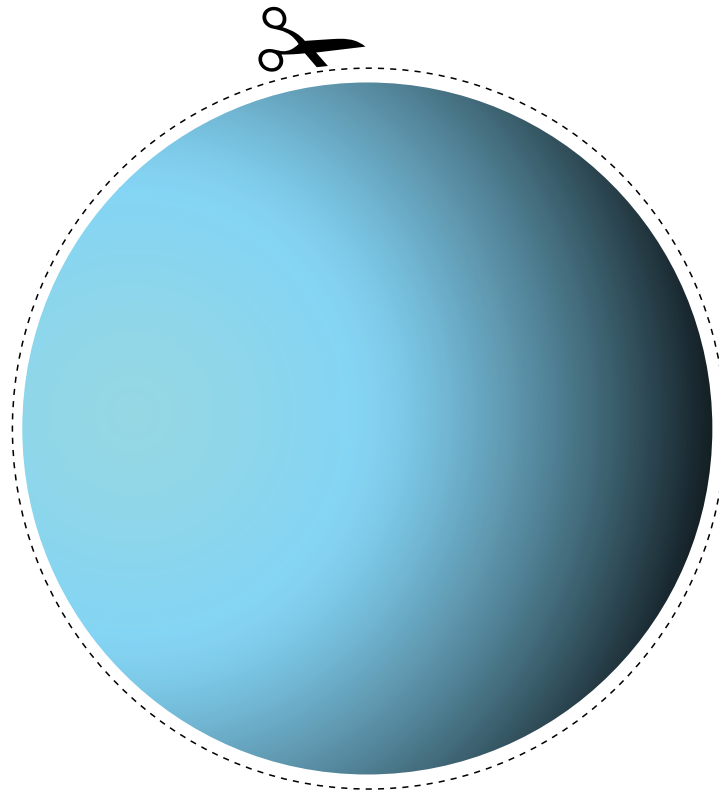
Saturn is the sixth planet from the sun and the second largest in the solar system, Saturn has over 60 moons, and is surrounded by a beautiful system of rings.



Make a Solar System Mobile

Uranus

Uranus is the seventh planet from the sun. Because of the strange way it spins, nights on some parts of Uranus can last for more than 40 years. Uranus is a very cold planet. It is made up of rock and ice and has a large rocky core. It has the nickname "Ice Giant." It is possible there are diamonds on the surface of this planet.



Make a Solar System Mobile

Neptune

Neptune is the eighth planet. It is the farthest planet from the sun.

It is the fourth largest planet. The interior of Neptune,
like that of Uranus, is made mostly of ice and rock.

A gas called methane causes Neptune to look blue.

