

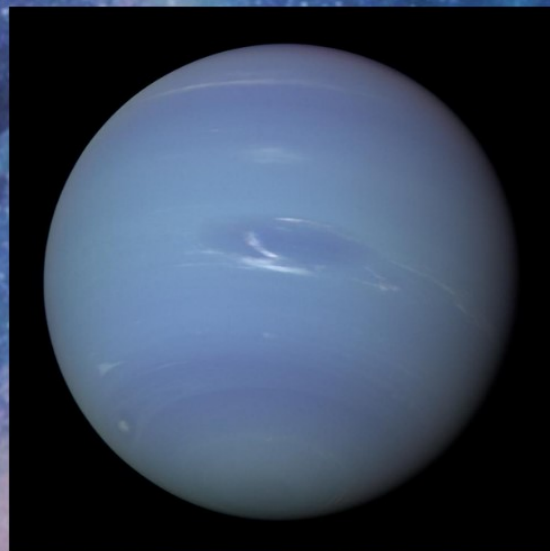
## Neptune Facts

Neptune is now the most distant planet (sorry, Pluto) and is a cold and dark world nearly 3 billion miles from the Sun. It is the farthest planet of the Solar System with the most powerful wind speeds out of all the planets. It is the smallest of the gas giants and is the first planet to be discovered by mathematical predictions in 1846.

### Key Facts & Summary

- It is the only planet that is invisible to the unaided eye, thus it eluded ancient astronomers until it was officially discovered in 1846 by Le Verrier and Johann Galle.
- The greatest factor of the discovery was the planet Uranus, whom astronomers were calculating its orbit and observed that Uranus wasn't following their models.
- Neptune was the first planet to be discovered by mathematical calculations and predictions.
- Neptune was given the name of the roman god of the sea due to its bluish-ocean like colour. Its satellites also received names of water deities.
- Neptune's colour is believed to be influenced by the presence of methane in its atmosphere and also an unknown factor.
- Neptune has an average distance of 2.8 billion m/4.5 billion km or 30 AU away from the Sun, being the furthest of the eight planets.
- As a result from its distance, it also has the longest orbital duration completing a trip around the Sun in about 165 years. One rotation or day on Neptune is completed in 16 hours.
- Neptune has a radius of 15,387 miles or 24,764 km, about four times wider than Earth, and a diameter of 49,244 km or 30,598 m being the fourth largest planet of the solar system.
- Neptune and Uranus are termed as ice giants because they are smaller and have different compositionality from the gas giants Jupiter and Saturn. Neptune being made out of layers of helium 29% and 80% hydrogen with traces of methane.
- It has a core about 1.5 times the size of Earth with twice its pressure.
- It has an average temperature of -214 degrees Celsius; however Uranus is the coldest ice giant, and for that fact the coldest of all planets in the solar system.
- Neptune has the fastest wind speed of any planet. Wind speeds blowing westward on the equator reach up to 2,160 km or 1,324 miles per hour, nearly a supersonic flow. Most winds travel retrograde to the rotation of the planet they are 5 times stronger than the strongest winds recorded on Earth, breaking the sound barrier.
- Neptune has a total of 6 known rings with some containing ring arcs or clusters of dust particles in a ring with 14 known moons.

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