



Name _____ Date _____

URANUS

Uranus sits at the far end of the solar system, between Saturn and Neptune. These outer planets are made of very different material than the inner planets. Uranus is mostly made up of frozen gas. The inside of Uranus is made up of methane gas. The methane gas gives the planet a blue-green color. Uranus is also covered with clouds.

Uranus is the fourth-largest object in the solar system. It is the seventh planet from the sun. It has been discovered that Uranus has 27 moons and lots of rings. These rings are shaped differently than the rings of Saturn or Jupiter. Uranus has partial rings. The rings are very faint and hard to see. The moons are icy and have no atmosphere. There is not much possibility that there is life on Uranus.

The *Voyager II* flew by Uranus and was able to get 7,000 pictures of Uranus, its rings, and its moons. The *Voyager II* was launched in 1977 and arrived in 1986. That is one long trip!

STORY QUESTIONS

- What does the word *partial* mean?
 - related to particles
 - incomplete
 - orbits the sun in one year
 - see-through
- Why did it take so long to get pictures of Uranus?
 - Uranus does not have an atmosphere
 - Uranus has just recently been discovered.
 - It takes a very long time to get to Uranus.
 - The *Voyager II* had difficulty getting to Uranus.
- What does the passage say about how the rings of Uranus compare to the rings of Jupiter and Saturn?
 - They are shaped differently.
 - They are made up of different materials.
 - They are longer rings.
 - They are made up of methane gas.
- Which of the following statements is not a fact about Uranus?
 - It is the fourth-largest planet in the solar system.
 - It is made up of methane gas.
 - It has 27 moons.
 - There is the good possibility of life on Uranus.