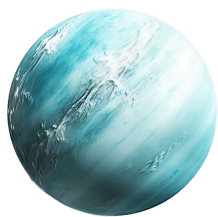


Name: _____

Date: _____



Uranus

Reading Comprehension



Read the text and answer the questions.

Earth. It is also very heavy. In fact, Uranus is 14 times heavier than Earth! Uranus has 27 moons, and it also has a ring system. The rings are very thin, and they are made of small pieces of ice and rock. One day on Uranus is 17 hours and 14 minutes long. One year on Uranus is 84 Earth years long. That means that one year on Uranus is as long as 84 years on Earth! Uranus was discovered in 1781 by an astronomer named William Herschel. Herschel didn't know he had found a new planet. He thought he had found a new comet. After studying the object for several months, Herschel realized that it was not a comet. It was a planet, and he named it "Georgium Sidus" after King George III of England. A few years later, the name was changed to Uranus, which is the name of a Greek god. Uranus is a planet in our Solar System. It is the seventh planet from the Sun and it is 1.8 billion miles away from the Sun. Uranus is very cold, and it is made of gas. This gas is mostly hydrogen and helium, but there is also some water and methane. Uranus is really big. It is four times bigger than

- 1 Why was Uranus originally named "Georgium Sidus"?

- 2 How many moons does Uranus have, and what else does it possess?

- 3 Who discovered Uranus, and what did he initially think it was?

- 4 How does the size and weight of Uranus compare to Earth?

- 5 How far is Uranus from the Sun?
