

LITTLE POSTER OF MOONS

WHAT IS A MOON?

Moons orbit planets and asteroids in our Solar System. Earth has only one moon but there are more than 200 moons in our Solar System. Most of the major planets (except Mercury and Venus) have moons. Saturn and Jupiter have the most moons, with dozens orbiting each of the two giant planets. Pluto and some other dwarf planets, as well as many asteroids, also have small moons.

THE EARTH SYSTEM

Of all the rocky planets, only the Earth and Mars have moons. The Earth's moon, also known as Luna, is remarkable because, compared to the Earth, it is the largest moon relative to the planet it orbits.

EARTH'S MOON

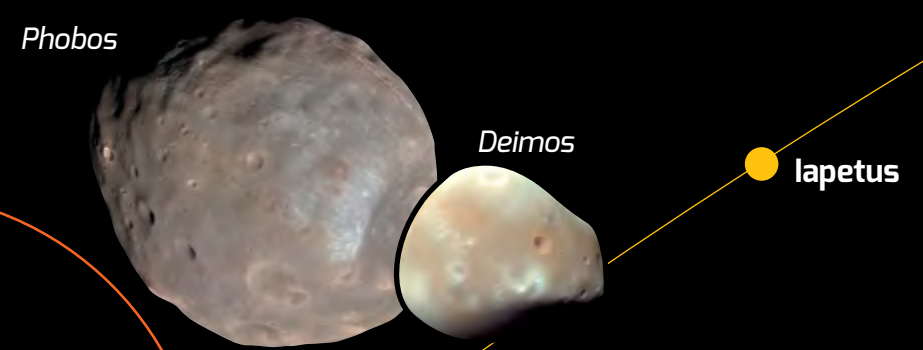


MARS MOONS

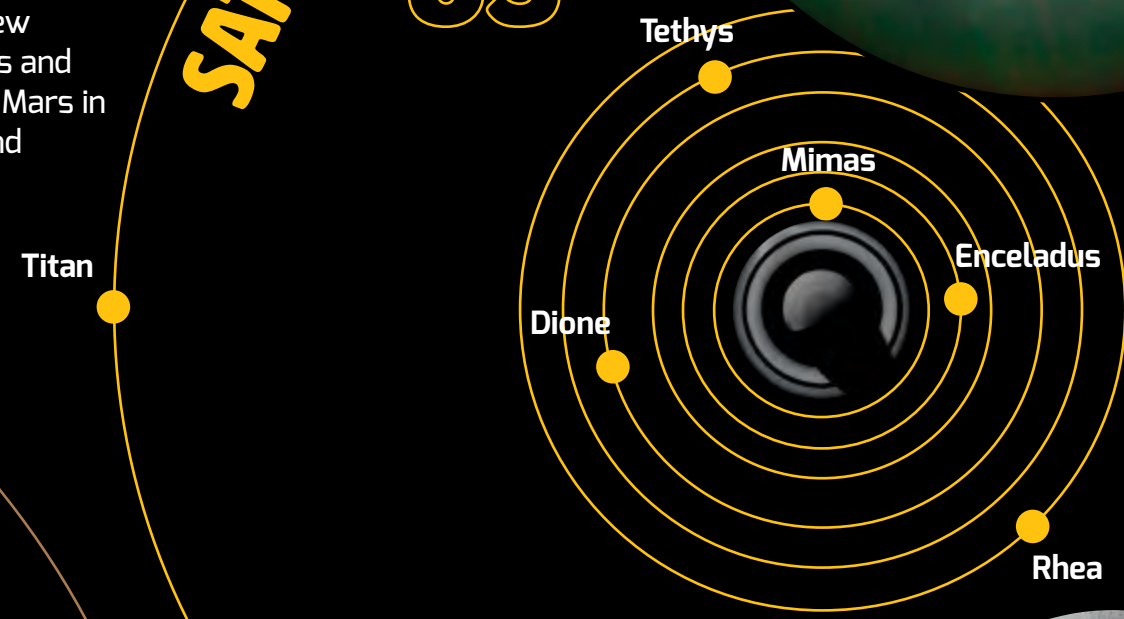


THE MARS SYSTEM

Mars' two moons are tiny compared to the Earth's. They are only a few kilometre's across and they whiz around Mars in less than a day and a half.



SATURN'S MOONS

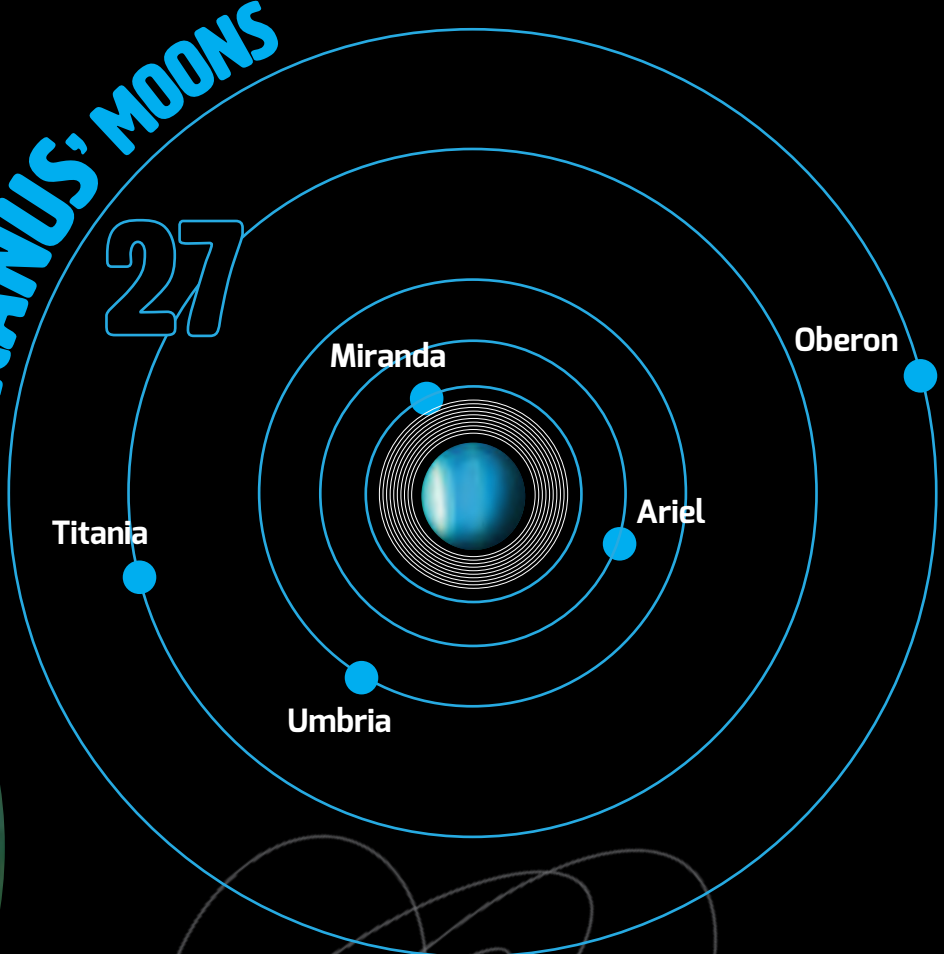


Enceladus' ice volcanos are source of Saturn's faint outermost ring.

THE SATURN SYSTEM

Saturn has 83 moons – 53 are confirmed and named and another 30 moons waiting to be confirmed and named. They range from planet-sized worlds with atmospheres to small lumps of rock and ice. The moons closest to Saturn orbit within the planet's famous rings – these are known as 'shepherd moons'.

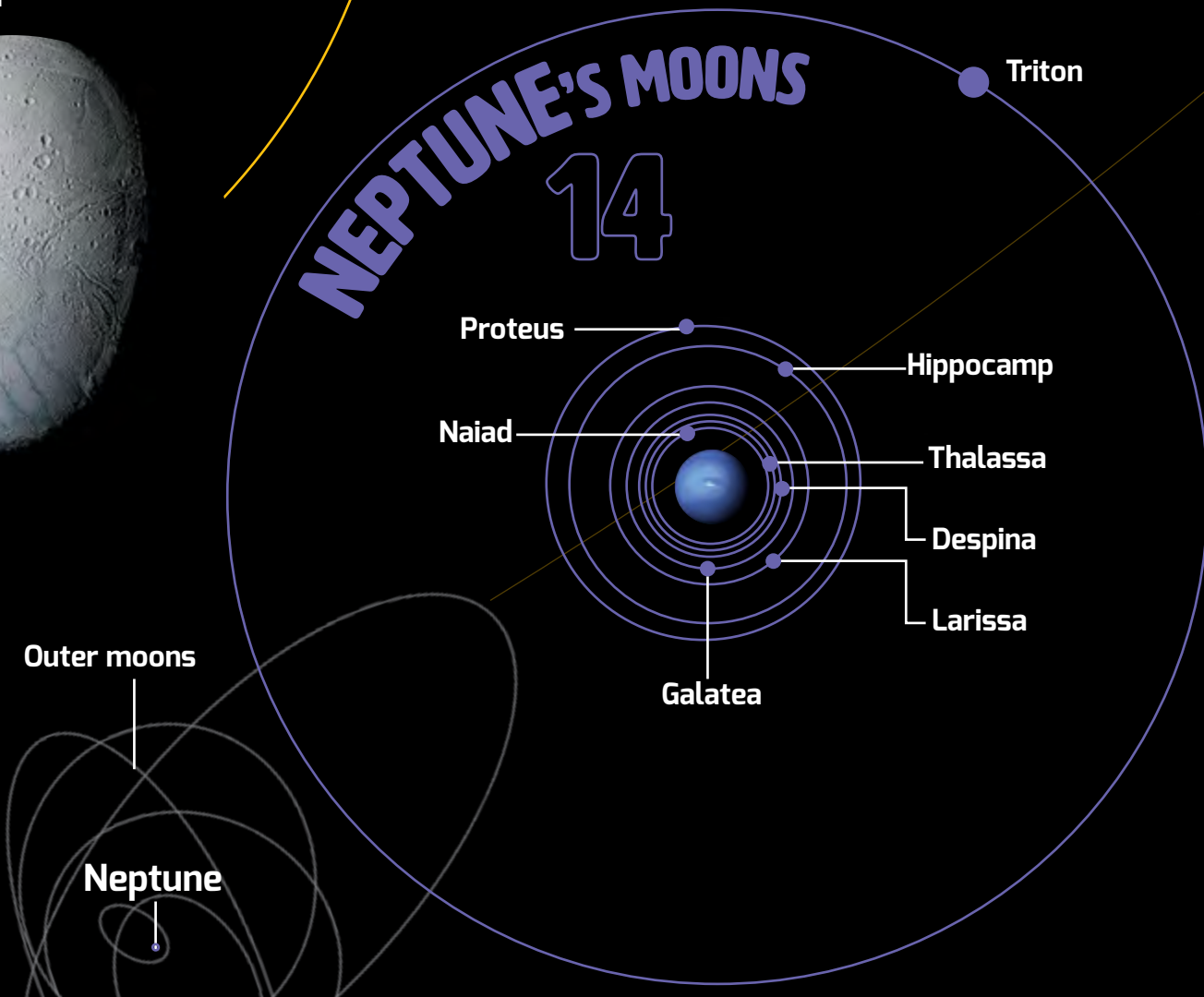
URANUS' MOONS



THE URANUS SYSTEM

Uranus has 27 moons. Titania and Oberon are in the Solar System's top ten biggest moons, but even if you were to add together all Uranus' 27 moons, they wouldn't match the size of a single one of the major moons of Jupiter or Saturn.

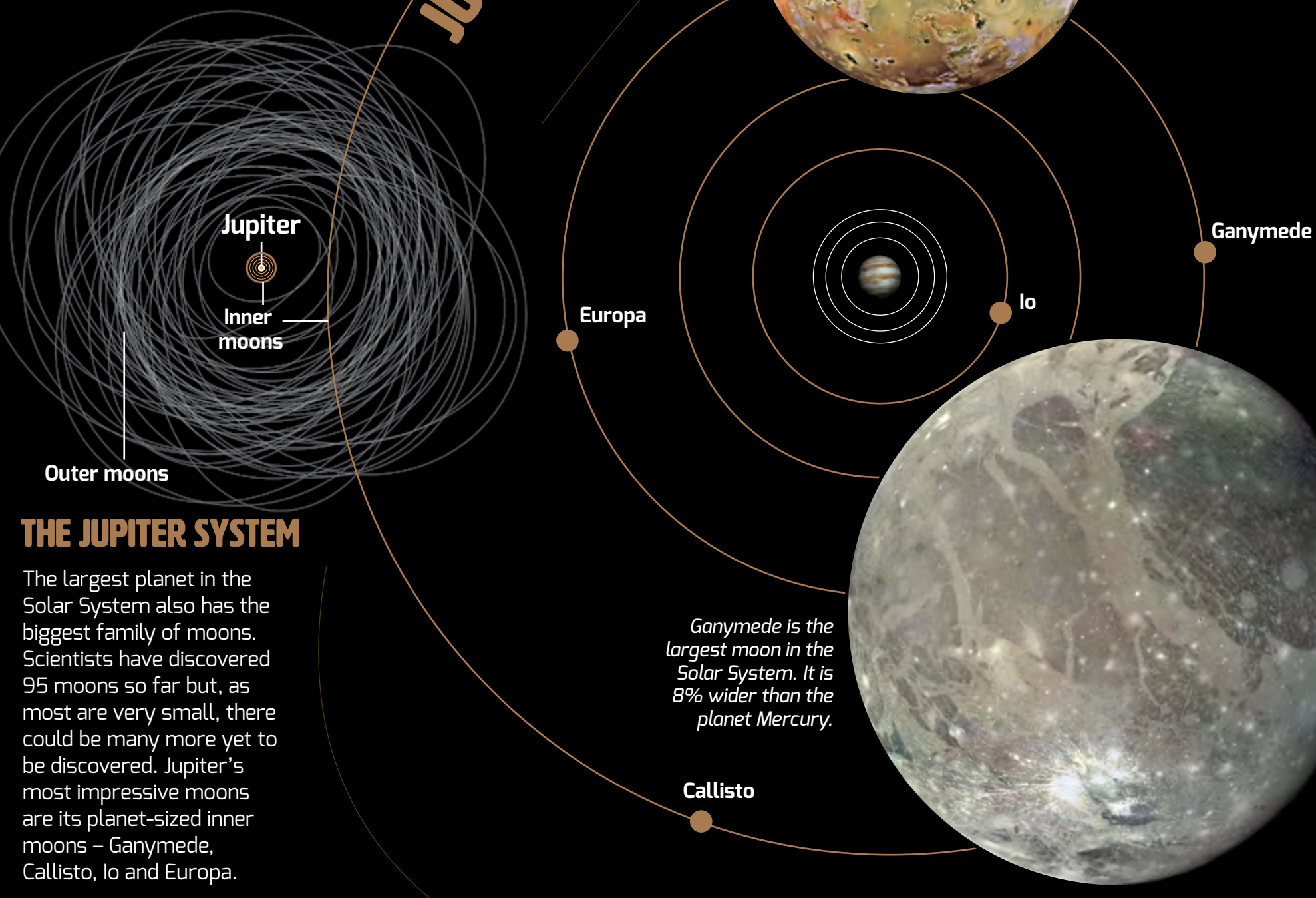
NEPTUNE'S MOONS



THE NEPTUNE SYSTEM

Neptune has 14 moons that we know of at this time. Triton is so big it makes up nearly all of the mass of the Neptune system, all the other moons added together only make up about one third of one percent.

JUPITER'S MOONS



THE JUPITER SYSTEM

The largest planet in the Solar System also has the biggest family of moons. Scientists have discovered 95 moons so far but, as most are very small, there could be many more yet to be discovered. Jupiter's most impressive moons are its planet-sized inner moons – Ganymede, Callisto, Io and Europa.

Ganymede is the largest moon in the Solar System. It is 8% wider than the planet Mercury.

Io is the most volcanically active world in the Solar System