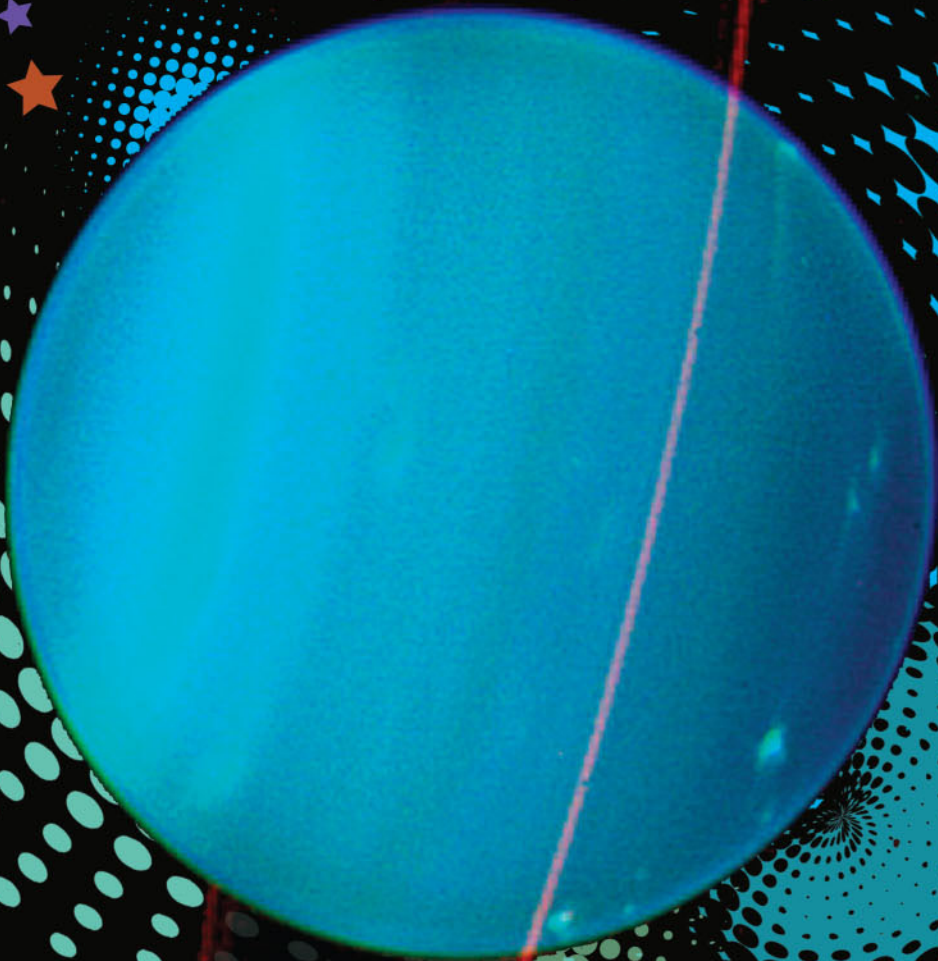




# URANUS

The Sideways-Spinning Planet



Ellen Lawrence

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# URANUS

## The Sideways-Spinning Planet

by Ellen Lawrence

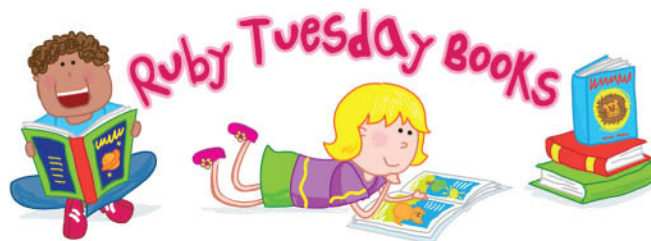
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Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society





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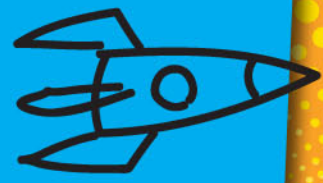
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# Welcome to Uranus



Imagine flying to a world that is hundreds of millions of miles from Earth.

As your spacecraft gets near, you see a beautiful, blue ball in the darkness of space.

You fly much closer and dive into swirling **gases** and clouds.

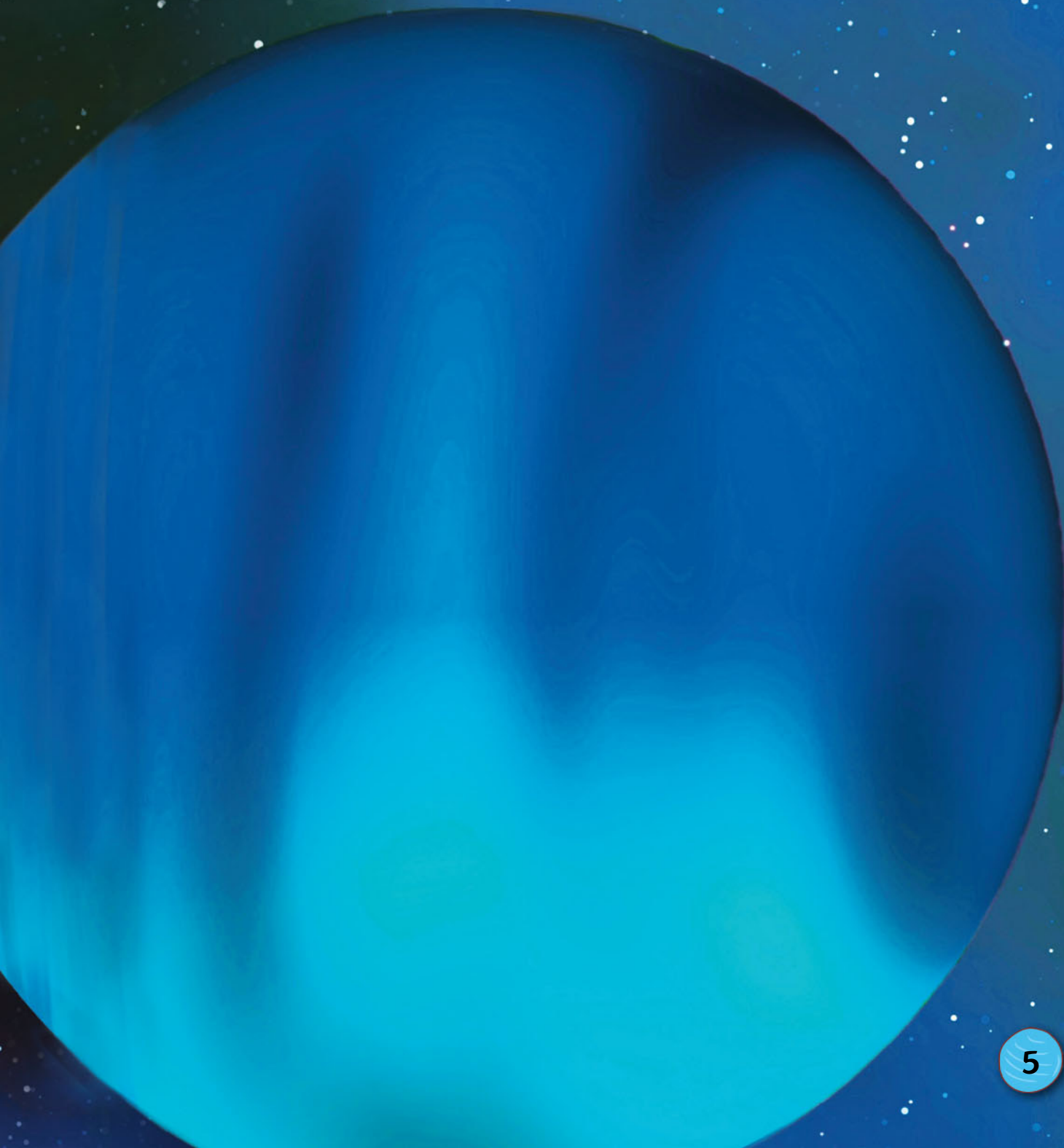
You will find nowhere solid to land, though, on this faraway world.

That's because the huge, blue ball is made only of icy gases and liquids.

Welcome to the **planet** Uranus!

No humans have ever visited Uranus, but a spacecraft has. In 1986, *Voyager 2* became the first and only space **probe** to fly past Uranus.

This picture was created on a computer. It shows how it might look to fly very close to Uranus.



# The Solar System



Uranus is moving through space at over 15,000 miles per hour (24,000 km/h).

It is moving in a huge circle around the Sun.

Uranus is one of eight planets circling the Sun.

The planets are called Mercury, Venus, our home planet Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune.

Icy **comets** and large rocks, called **asteroids**, are also moving around the Sun.

Together, the Sun, the planets, and other space objects are called the **solar system**.

Most of the asteroids in the solar system are in a ring called the asteroid belt.

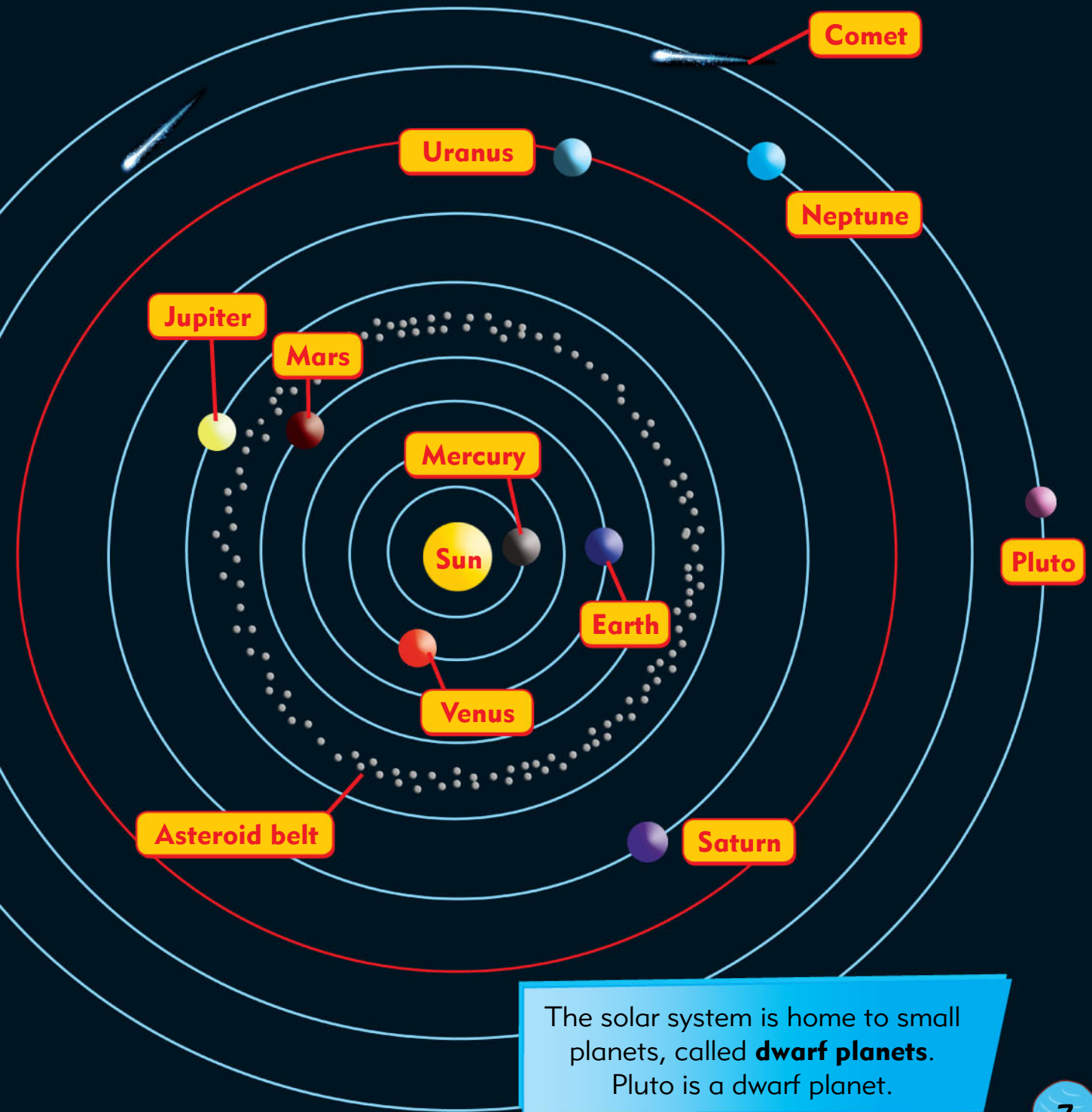


An asteroid



## The Solar System

Uranus is the seventh planet from the Sun.



The solar system is home to small planets, called **dwarf planets**. Pluto is a dwarf planet.

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# Learn More Online

To learn more about Uranus, go to  
[www.rubytuesdaybooks.com/uranus](http://www.rubytuesdaybooks.com/uranus)

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# URANUS

## The Sideways-Spinning Planet

Nearly 2 billion miles from Earth, an icy, blue world circles the Sun. A huge, beautiful ball of gases and liquids, this planet travels through space spinning on its side.



**Welcome to Uranus!**



### Titles in this series

#### COMETS, METEORS, AND ASTEROIDS

Voyagers of the Solar System

#### EARTH

Our Home in the Solar System

#### JUPITER

The Giant of the Solar System

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