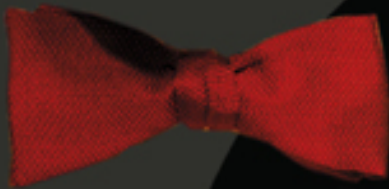


DOCTOR WHO

THE OFFICIAL DOCTIONARY



Doctionary (*essential book*) the Doctor's dictionary
of definitions for time travellers

DOCTOR  WHO

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THE DOCTIONARY

Introduction

Do you ever have moments when you wonder what someone else is talking about? I do. But then I have moments when I wonder what I'm talking about. So do other people, it seems. 'What is he talking about?' they wonder as I rattle on about... Well, about whatever it is I'm rattling on about.

So I thought, wouldn't it be great if I had a list of lots of the things I say and explanations of what I mean? What I usually mean. Sometimes.

Then everyone would know what I'm on about, and I'd be able to check that it all makes sense. Sort of. A bit. Perhaps.

Anyway, whether it's useful or not, here it is. I hope it helps. If not, then - er - sorry. But I've got to dash. There's a bit of bother in the Gatikarian Galaxy that needs sorting out. Something to do with a Sontaran, a bottle of fizzy drink, a bath plug and a trombone.

Talk to you soon. Or 'Vastan der Moibles' as they say in Eutacaria Fourteen. On Wednesdays. Whatever it means.

The Doctor



Space and Astronomy and Stuff

If you're going to be a space traveller, and why not, then you need to know this stuff. If nothing else, so you can work out where you are, or what you were just hit by.

Asteroid

It's like this big rock thing floating in space. Well, not that big – I mean, not planet-sized big. More sort of small-big really. And actually, 'floating' isn't right because you sort of do that in water or liquid and space is, well, space. Space is pretty much full of floaty rock things, except it's called space because it's so empty.



Big Bang, the

I was there. No, really. Right at the start – because that’s what the Big Bang was. It’s when the universe just started from nothing. Except when it started again from an exploding TARDIS but that was different. Start of the universe, then – bang, and there it was. Small at first, but expanding and getting bigger and bigger.

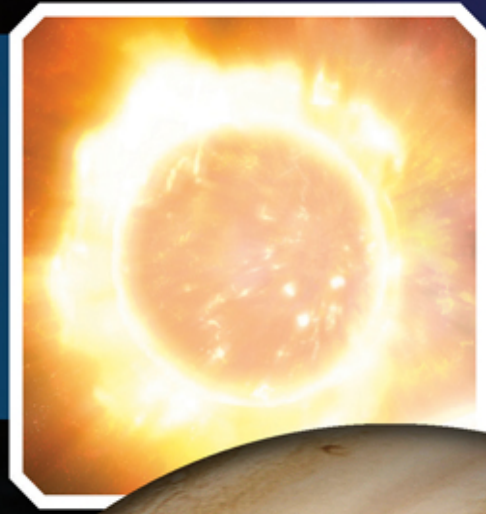
Black Hole

It’s not a hole and not black. But otherwise ‘black hole’ sums it up pretty well really. It’s what you get when an old star collapses in on itself and the gravity is just so strong that everything gets crushed up really tiny – shunk! – like that. The gravity is so strong that everything round it gets pulled in and crunched-up and nothing can get out. Not even light. Which is why it’s black. It’s not really black, it’s just there’s no light. So dark maybe. Yeah, that’s it – a ‘Dark Crunch’.

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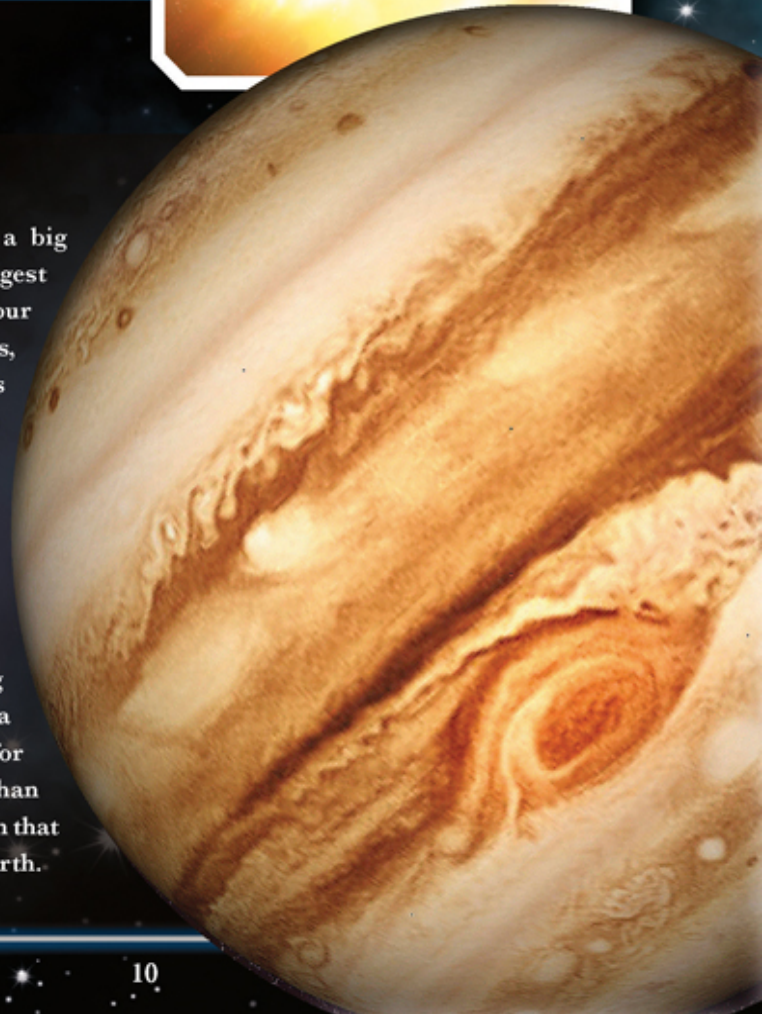
Dwarf Star

Right, well, before it becomes a black hole the star gets really heavy because of the crunch-up thing. Compressed matter. You can make Dwarf Star Alloy out of the material and that's just really super strong and nothing can get through it. Which is useful.



Jupiter

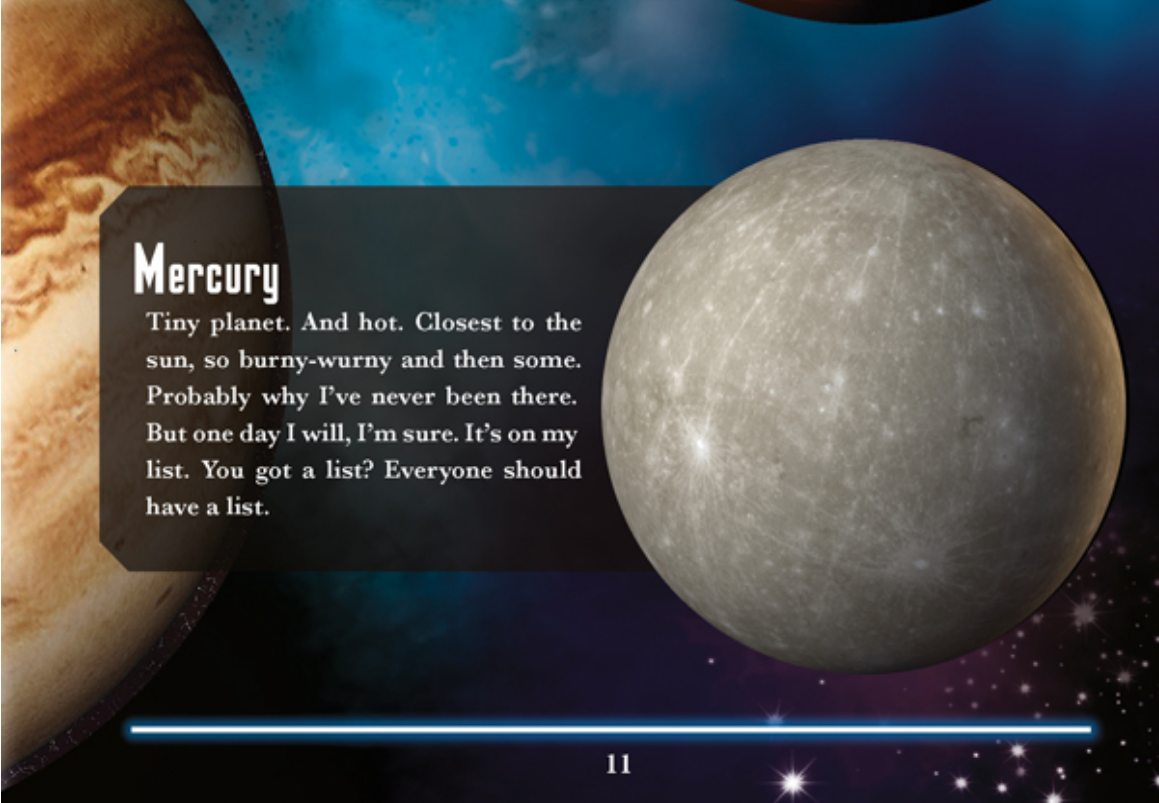
As planets go, Jupiter is a big one. Really - huge. Biggest in the Solar System. Your human solar system that is, of course. Big chap - what's called a gas giant. That's because, well, it's made of gas - mostly hydrogen with some helium thrown in. And it's big. What else do you need to know? Fifth planet out from the sun. Lot of moons. And a big Red Spot which is actually a storm that's been raging for centuries and is bigger than the Earth. Got that? A storm that is Bigger - Than - The - Earth.





Mars

Not as big as Jupiter. As planets go, pretty average really – fourth from the sun. About half the size of Earth. Just don't drink the water – if you find any. Really, avoid. Mars used to be home to the Martians, which sort of makes sense. I nicknamed them Ice Warriors because they like the cold. Big armoured lizard things with a keen sense of honour and a love of war. Which is appropriate, because Mars is named after the Roman god of war. So there you go.



Mercury

Tiny planet. And hot. Closest to the sun, so burny-wurny and then some. Probably why I've never been there. But one day I will, I'm sure. It's on my list. You got a list? Everyone should have a list.

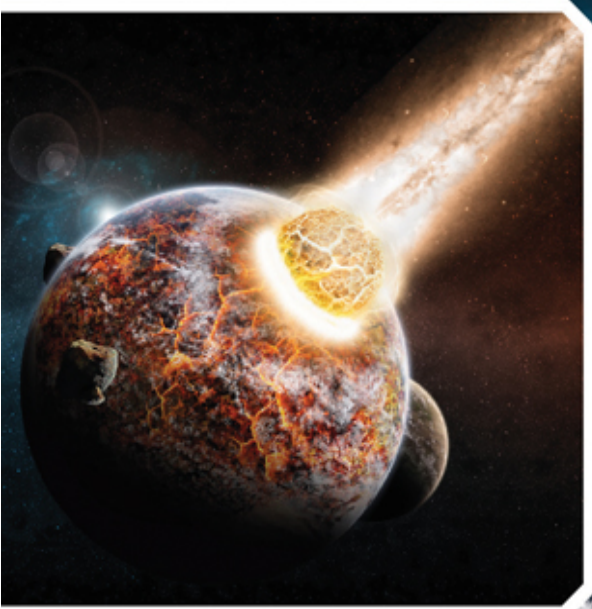
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Meteor

Big rock in space. Yes, OK, sort of like an asteroid. But smaller. Well, actually they're called 'meteoroids' by Science People these days (in your time, I mean). They say now that a 'meteor' is the trail a meteoroid leaves through the atmosphere as it burns up. No, not actually in space at all really. But if you say meteor most people know what you mean. Which is meteoroid.

Meteoroid

Hang on, we just did this one. Read 'Meteor' again if you still haven't got it.



Moons in general

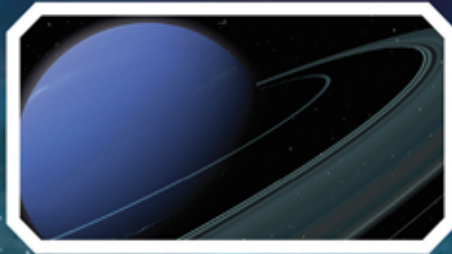
Bits of rock in space that go round other bigger bits of rock in space. Or balls of gas – moons can go round those, too. So sort of like asteroids or meteoroids but in orbit round a planet. Or another moon, I suppose. You could have a moon's moons. At least I think so.

Moon, the

By 'the' Moon we – or rather you humans – mean the moon that orbits planet Earth. Or one of them, because there are lots of tiddly ones as well as that great big one that you see up in the sky and where Neil Armstrong made his one small step. It's got a lot to answer for, though. Sent the ancient reptile people of Earth scurrying for cover when it turned up and got caught in Earth's orbit. And then there are werewolves.

Neptune

Another planet in your solar system. Eighth from the sun. So, furthest out, if you don't count Pluto (and people don't these days, which is a pity). It looks very blue, which is nice because it's named after the god of the sea. Though it's blue because of methane not water, but you can't have everything, can you?



Planet

What we've been talking about – big rock or gas things in space that go round a sun or star like moons go round planets. You know what – for stuff like this, alphabetical order is just rubbish.

Planetoid

Well, it's a little tiny planet really, isn't it? I mean, really tiny – smaller than Pluto (coming up next – no more spoilers). Probably too small to bother with really. I mean, when you're discovering over 3,000 of these a month just in your own solar system, which you are, you have ask yourself: Why bother?

Pluto

Yes! Been there, though not yet. It was a lovely sunny place. Though not yet. Far far out from the sun, so dark and cold at the moment. And demoted – used to be a planet but now the people who decide what planets are (and who does that? I mean, really?) have decided that Pluto is a 'dwarf planet'. Well, I'm sorry to be picky here but a dwarf planet is just a small planet isn't it? So why not call it a planet and make sure people know it's small? Job done.

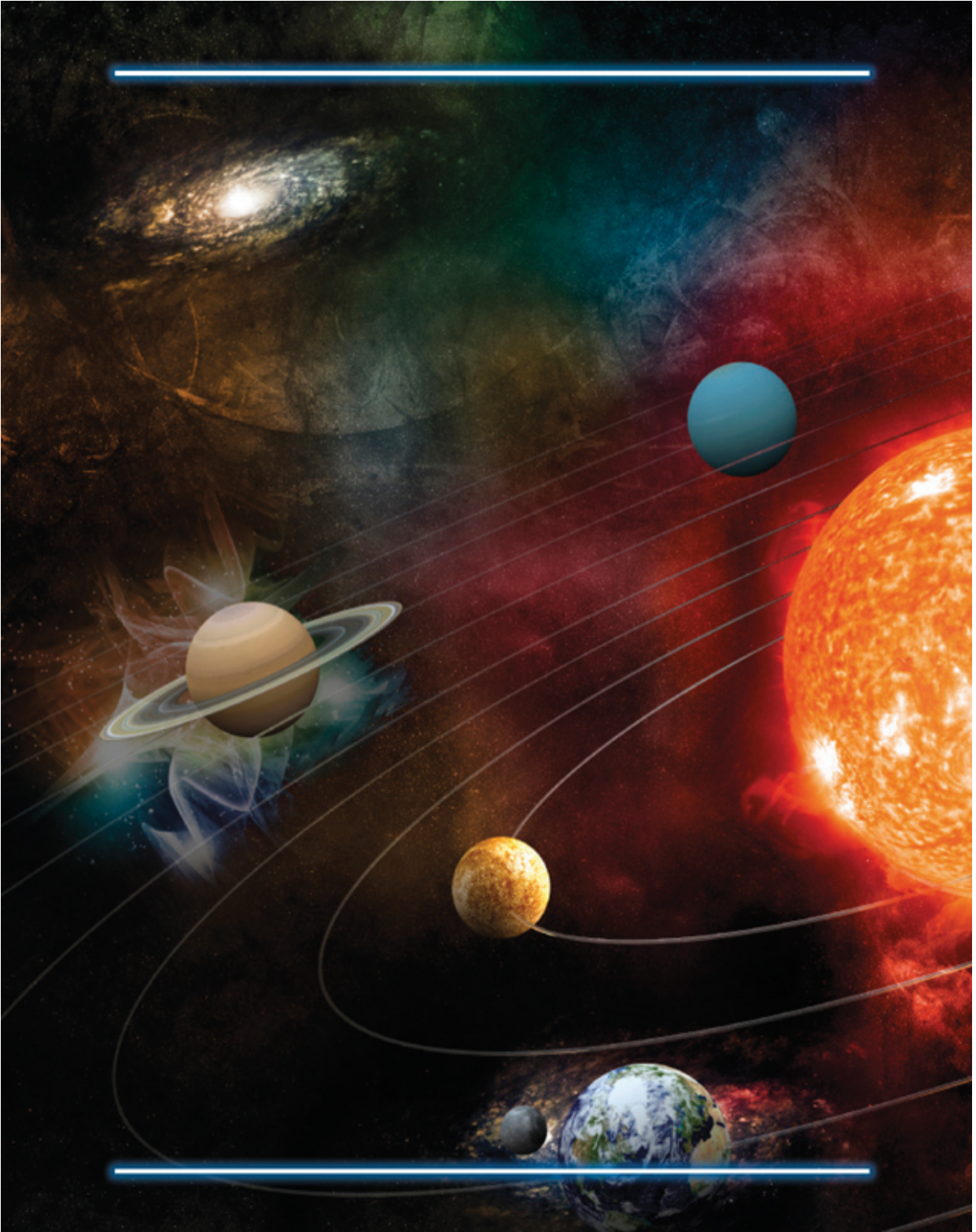
Saturn

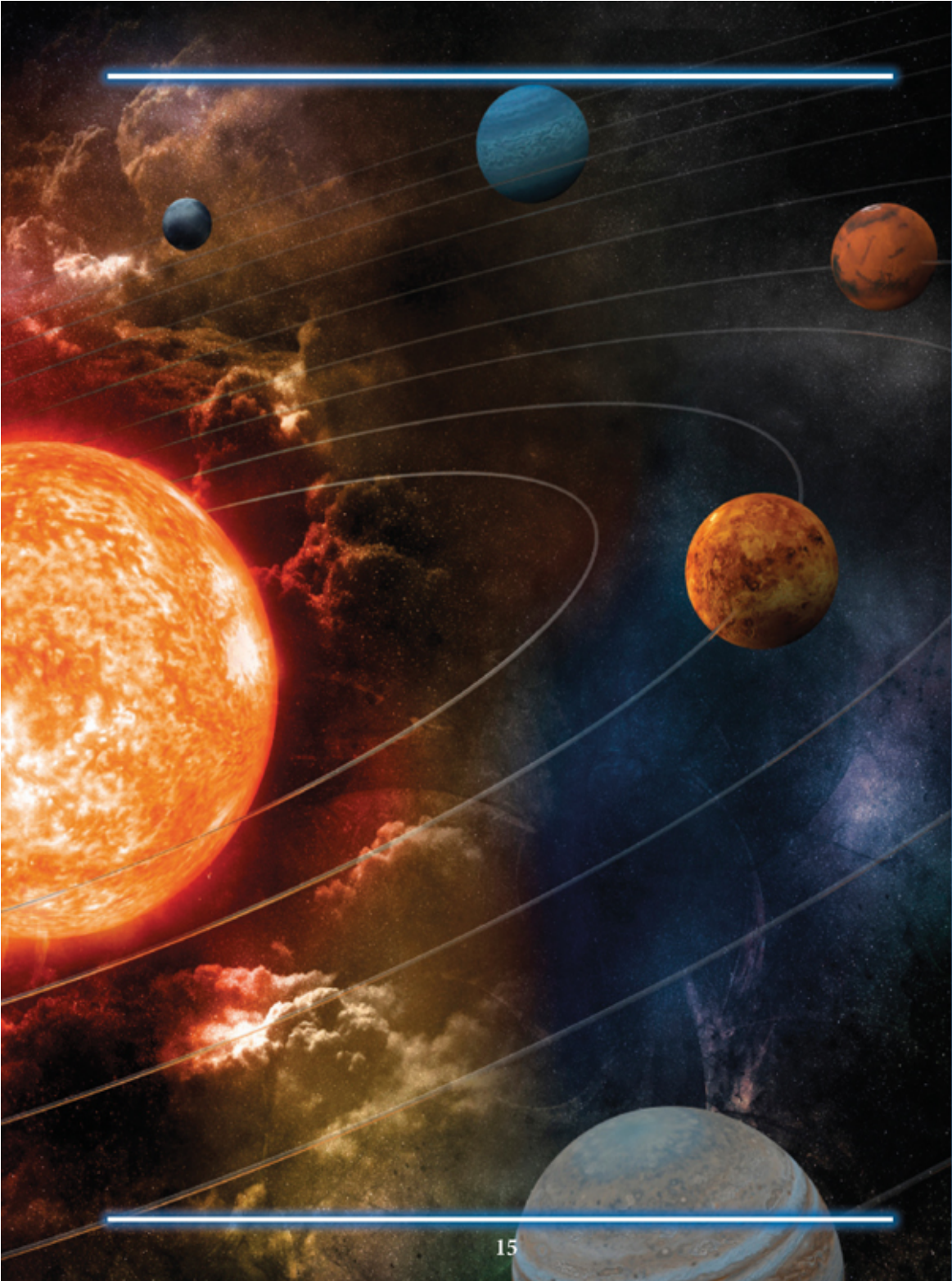
Another planet – and no doubt about this one because it's a biggie. Second largest (after Jupiter, remember?) and sixth out from the sun. Best known for its impressive rings. Also has moons. I blew one of them up once (well, not yet I didn't). But it was the only way, trust me – bit of trouble with a giant sentient virus swarm.

Sol 3

That's your sun in Time Lord Speak. No, really – Sol 3 in Mutter's Spiral. There you go. You've got an address and everything now for the human race. The Earth, The Solar System, Sol 3, Mutter's Spiral, Western Spiral Arm, Milky Way, The Universe. Not sure of the postcode, and put extra stamps on just to be sure.

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Star

Another human-centric thingy. You have your own sun, but anyone else's sun is called a star. A bit spacist if you ask me, but that's how it goes. Oh, and then you like to categorise your stars into different sorts – dwarfs and whitepoints and variables, and different classes with really boring names that only a human could think up like 'O Class' or 'B Class' and other random letters.

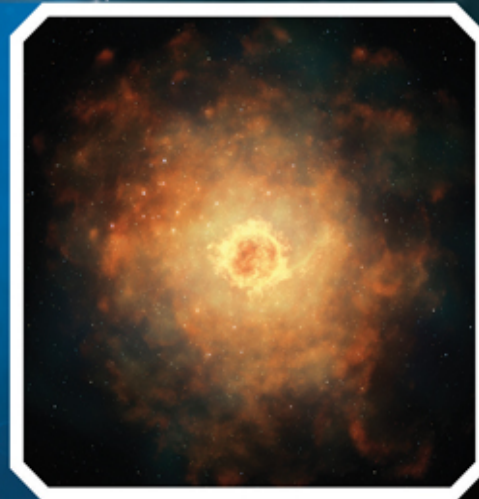


Uranus

Not funny at all, but it really is pronounced like that no matter what the Americans might think. They're just embarrassed and have no sense of humour. How can they have a sense of something they can't even spell? Sorry, where was I? Oh yes – another planet. Yawn. Uranus was the Greek god of the sky, which I guess makes sense. Slow and dim – so a bit like an Ogron. Sorry, joke. Moving on...

Universe

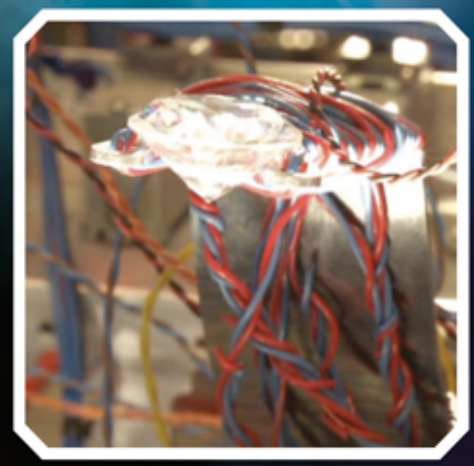
Everything. All of it – the whole lot. Everywhere. So all the stars in the sky and in everyone else's sky together with all their planets and stuff. Even non-stuff, which we call space, is part of the everything that we call the universe. So there's nothing that isn't in the universe. Nothing at all. Except other universes. Um, OK, let's skip that for now – the universe is everything, right. Except for the other stuff.



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Venus

Oh boring! How many more of these planet things are there? (I've just skipped ahead, and this is the last one – so don't worry.) Anyway, briefly – second planet out from the sun, and about the same size as Earth, because I know how you humans like to compare everything to your own planet. Can't think why.



Whitepoint Star

You don't find many of these – very rare. Look like diamonds. Big, expensive, beautiful diamonds. President Rassilon had one, which he used to create a link from time-locked Gallifrey to Earth. Very special things, Whitepoint Stars. All sorts of capabilities. So best avoided really.