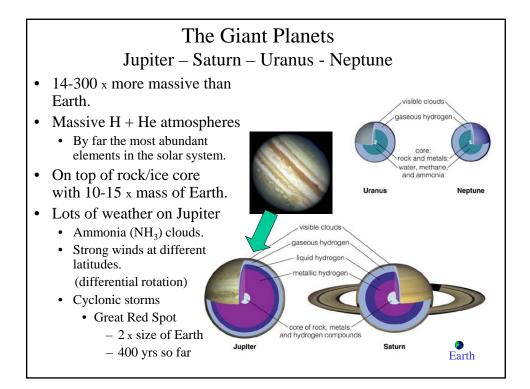
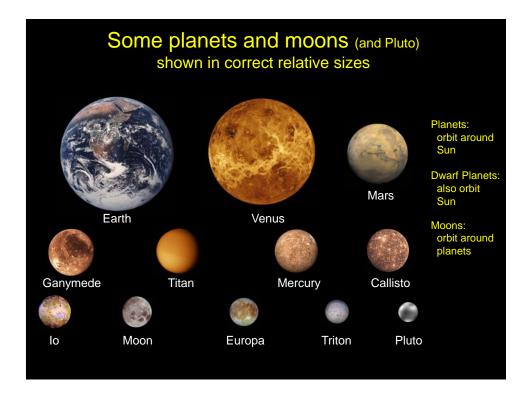
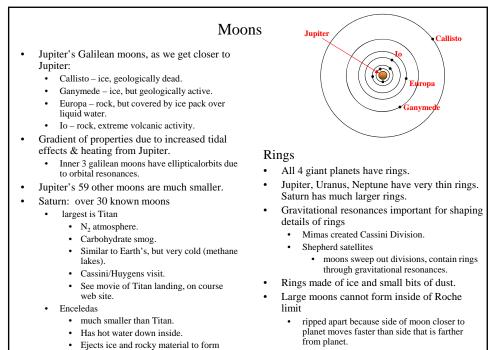


 Terrestrial Planets (continued) Venus Same size, density as Earth. Differentiated like Earth Surface mostly studied by radar Large volcanoes "Continents" pushed up by tectonic flows in mantle. Recent lava flows, constant resurfacing. Crater density → very young surface only 750 million yrs old. Thick CO₂ atmosphere Result of runaway greenhouse effect. Keeps surface very hot (900F). Lead is molten. Retrograde (backward) rotation Probably due to giant impact. 	 Mars 50% smaller diameter than Earth 1.5 times further from Sun. Gigantic volcanoes. 50% highland "continents" Tharsis bulge. Cracked open to form Valles Marineris. 50% low-lying lava plains. Atmosphere CO₂, like Venus, but very thin. Liquid water currently impossible. <i>Why?</i> Climate change Loss of atmosphere Low escape velocity Solar wind Could not retain heat Water froze out even less heat retained 2 Rovers found evidence of past water. Life? Viking landers found no sign. Questionable data in meteorite.
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• Roche limit ais at about 2.5x planet's radius.

Asteroids

Saturn's E ring.

- Small rocky bodies in orbit about sun.
 - Left over from formation of Solar System.
- Most, but not all, in asteroid belt.
 - Some cross Earth's orbit

Meteorites

- Asteroids that hit Earth and don't burn up in atmosphere.
- Analyzing them \rightarrow
 - Age of solar system (4.5 billion yrs) *How do we measure that?*
 - Initial chemical composition of solar system.

Comets

- Mostly ice
- Some on highly eccentric orbits
 - Spectacular tails when close to Sun.
 - Melted ice is driven off by solar radiation, solar wind.
- Most come from Oort Comet Cloud at edge of solar system.
 - Some from Kuiper Belt, just beyond Pluto.