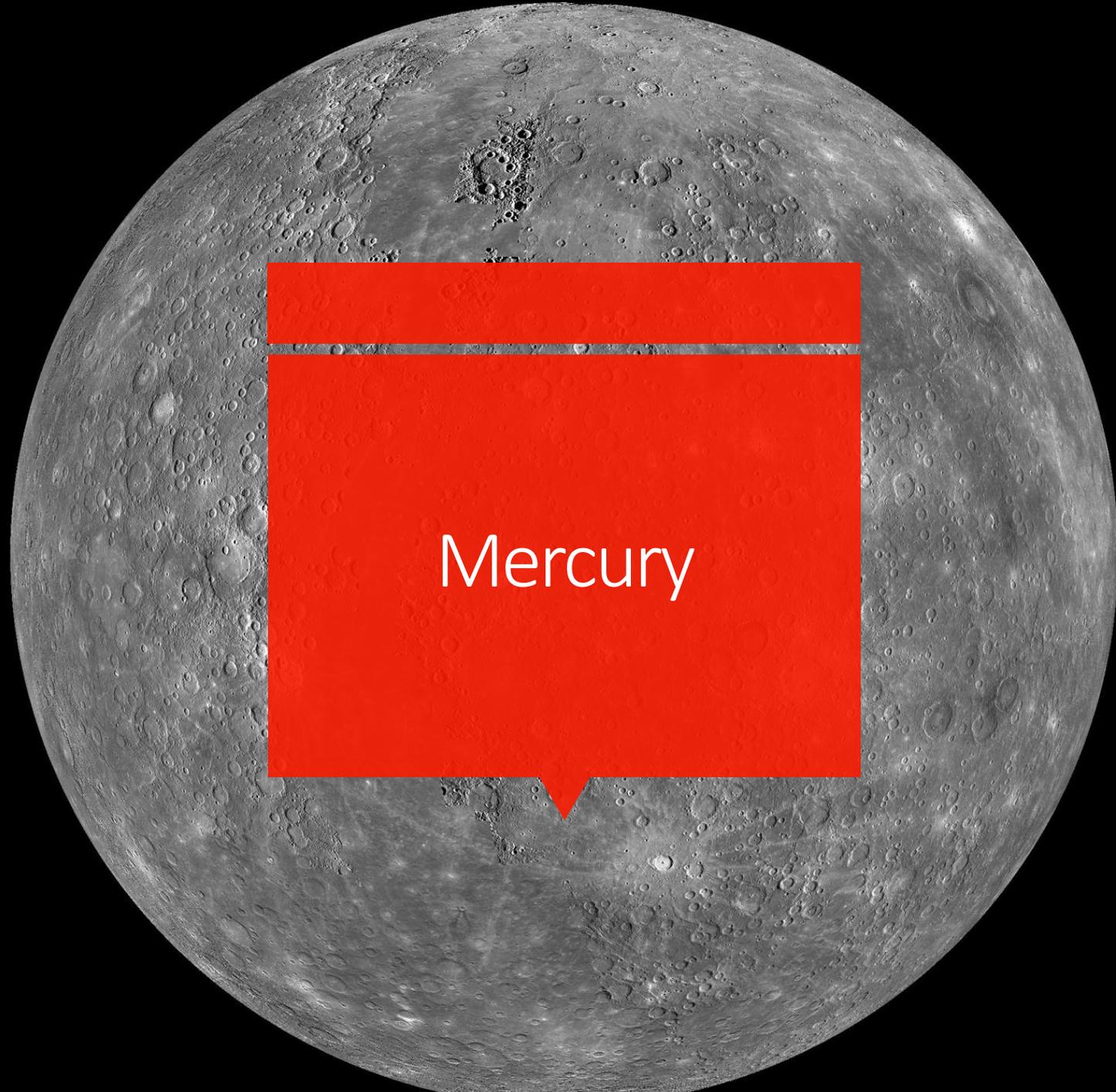


A composite image of space. In the foreground, the blue and white horizon of Earth curves across the bottom. In the background, a dark galaxy with colorful nebulae is visible on the left. On the right, a large, dark planet with a prominent ring system is partially visible. A bright red speech bubble with a white outline is centered in the middle of the image, containing the text "Our Solar System!".

Our Solar System!



Mercury

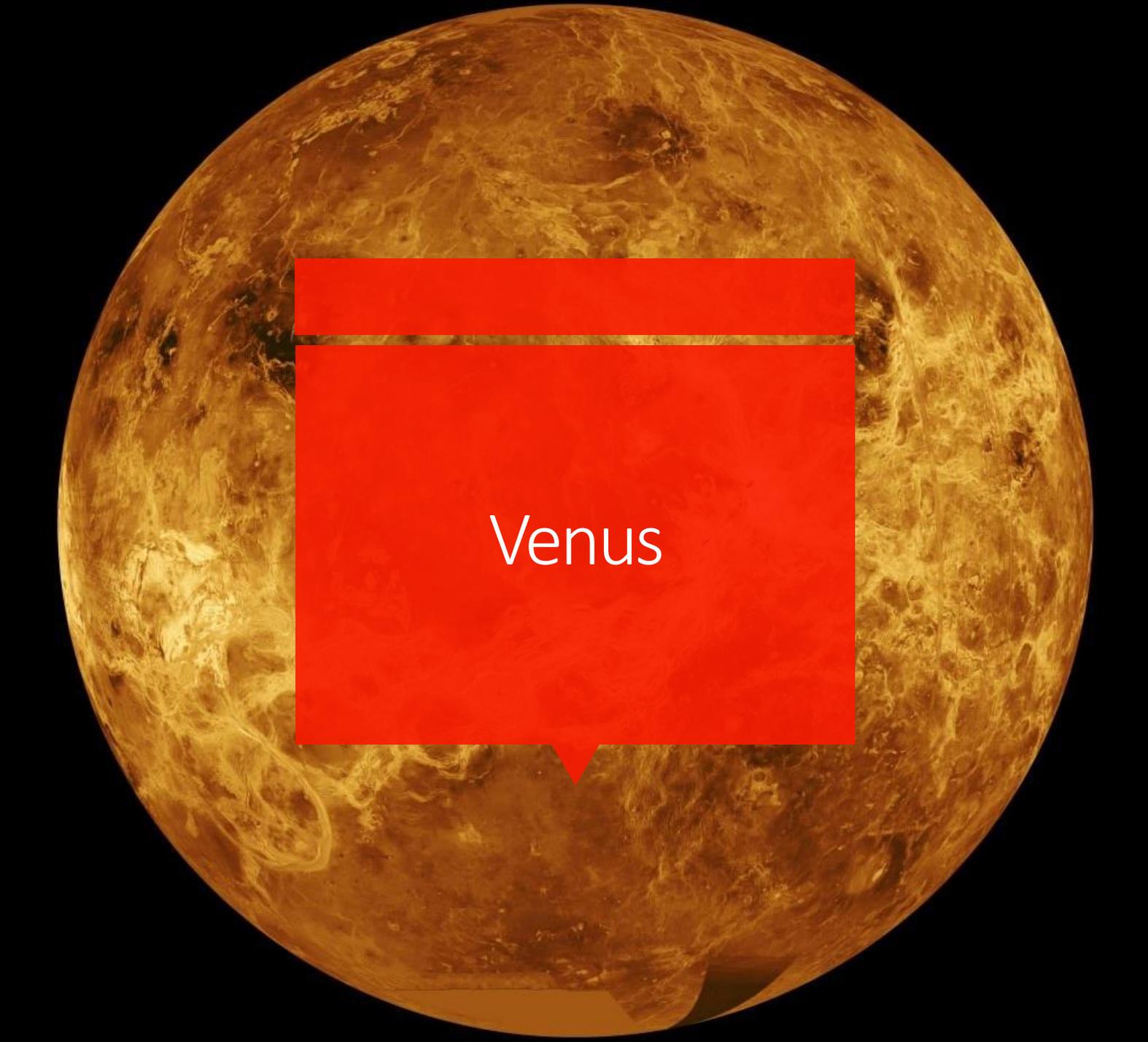
Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun and is the smallest planet in the Solar System!

It's a rocky planet and is covered in cliffs and craters.

Did you know that the planet Mercury was named after the fast messenger of Roman gods? A day on Mercury is 58 Earth days, and a year is 88 Earth days!

It has no moons!

If you were standing on Mercury, the Sun would look 3 times bigger than it would on Earth!



Venus

Venus is next door to Mercury. Venus is one of the deadliest planets. Here's why:

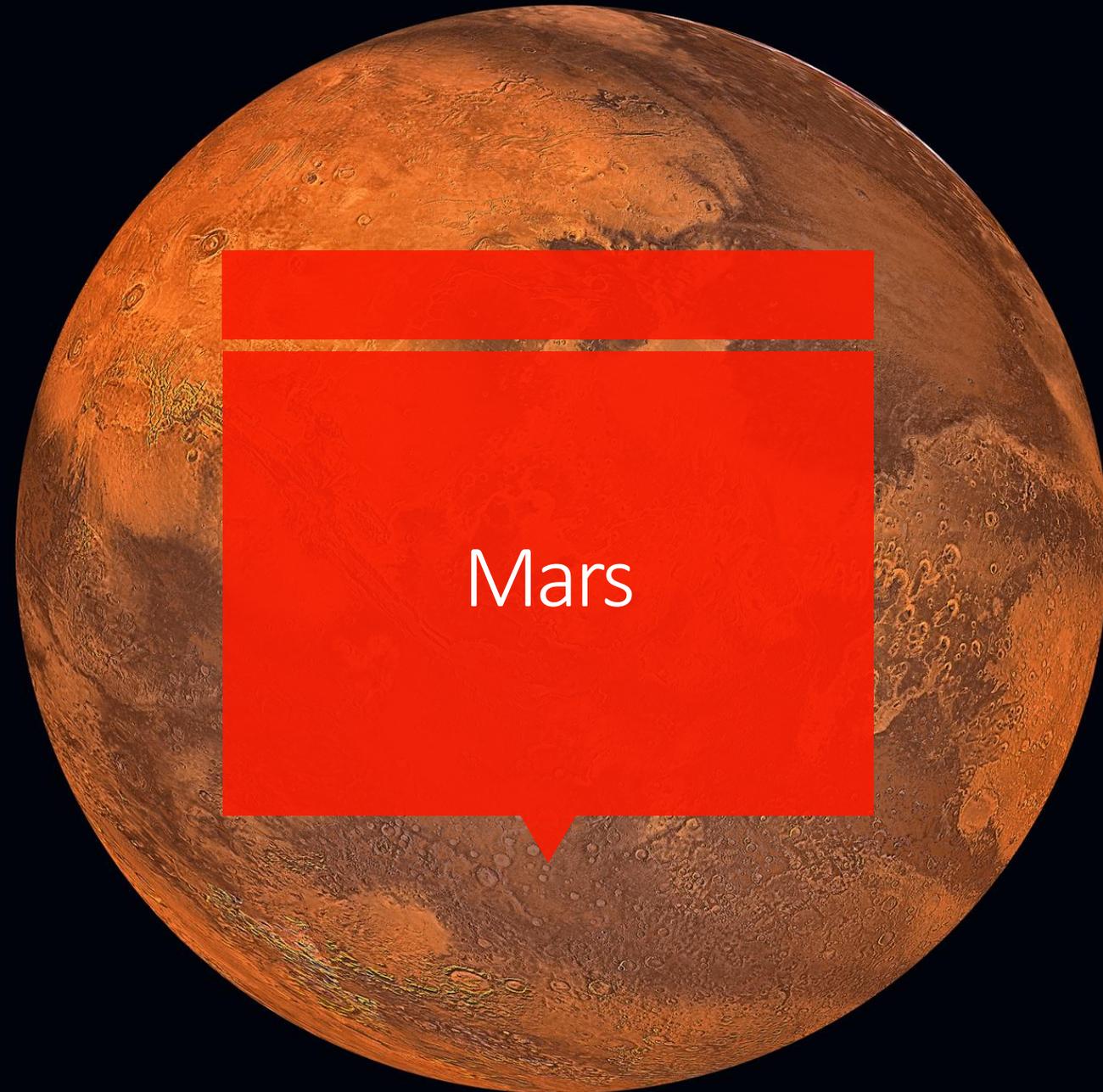
The air is so heavy it would squash you flat and is covered in a blanket of clouds that holds in the Sun's heat, making it the hottest planet in the Solar System! The clouds rain burning acid.

Venus spins very slowly which makes a day longer than a year!

A year is 224 Earth days and a day is 243 Earth days!

Venus was named after the Roman goddess of love.

Did you know that Venus is the second brightest object in the sky? Venus doesn't have a moon as well!



Mars

Next to Earth is the red planet of Mars. It is a little over half the size of the Earth.

It has the biggest mountain in the Solar System which is 3 times as tall as Mount Everest!

In 1965, a space craft called Mariner 4 sent back the first photos of Mars.

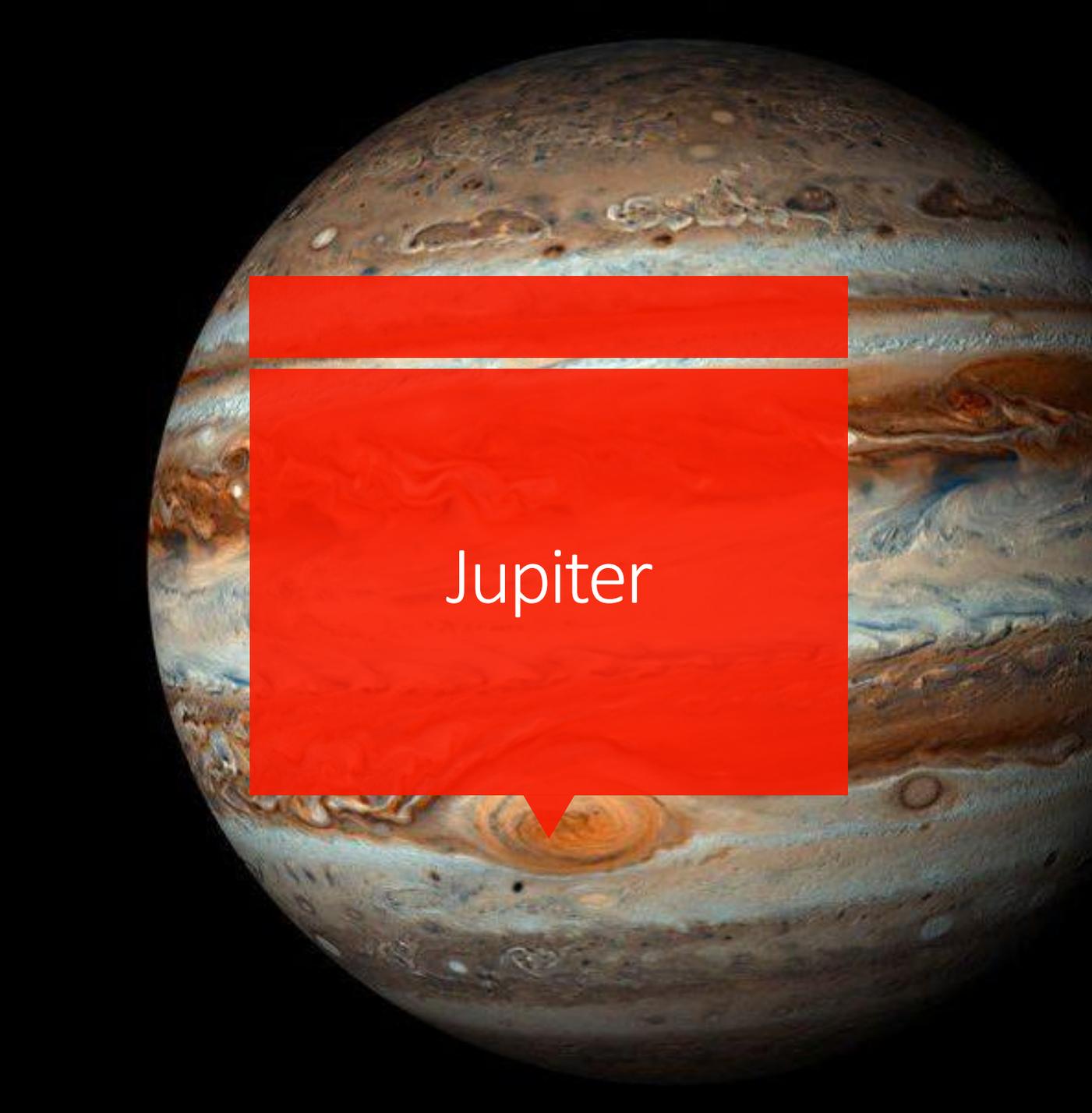
On Mars, it is drier and colder and has huge dust storms. Did you know that Mars also has 4 seasons?

Mars was named after the Roman god of war.

A day on Mars is 24.6 hours and a year is 687 Earth days!

Mars has 2 moons called Phobos and Deimos.

Did you know that if you were standing on Mars it would feel warm at your feet and cold at your head? That's because heat escapes very quickly.



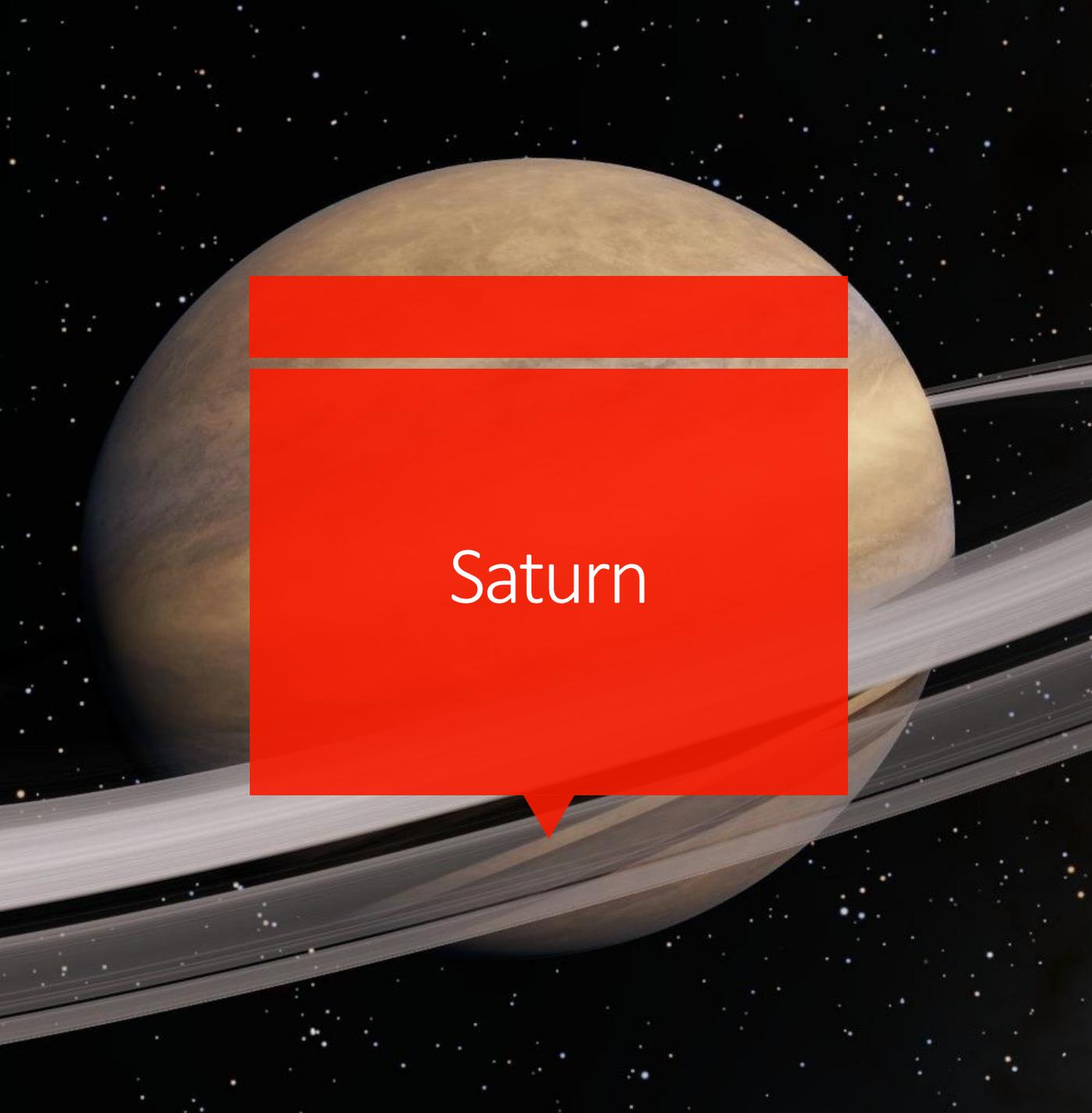
Jupiter

Next to Mars is the biggest planet in the Solar System, Jupiter. This planet is mainly covered in gases.

On Jupiter, there is a red spot that is a storm that has been raging for hundreds of years. The storm is bigger than the Earth!

Jupiter has 67 moons! Only 53 have names. Ganymede is Jupiter's biggest moon. It is also the biggest moon in the Solar System!

Jupiter was named after the King of Roman gods. A day is 10 hours, but a year is 4,333 Earth days!!!



Saturn

Saturn is the second largest planet in the Solar System and like Jupiter it is covered in gases.

The planet has 7 rings. They are made up of small pieces of rock and ice. The smallest pieces can be grains of sand, but others can be the size of asteroids!

Saturn was named after the Roman god of farming.

A day on Saturn is 10.7 hours and a year is ... 10,756 Earth days!!!

There are 53 known moons around Saturn, but scientists think that there are more!



Uranus

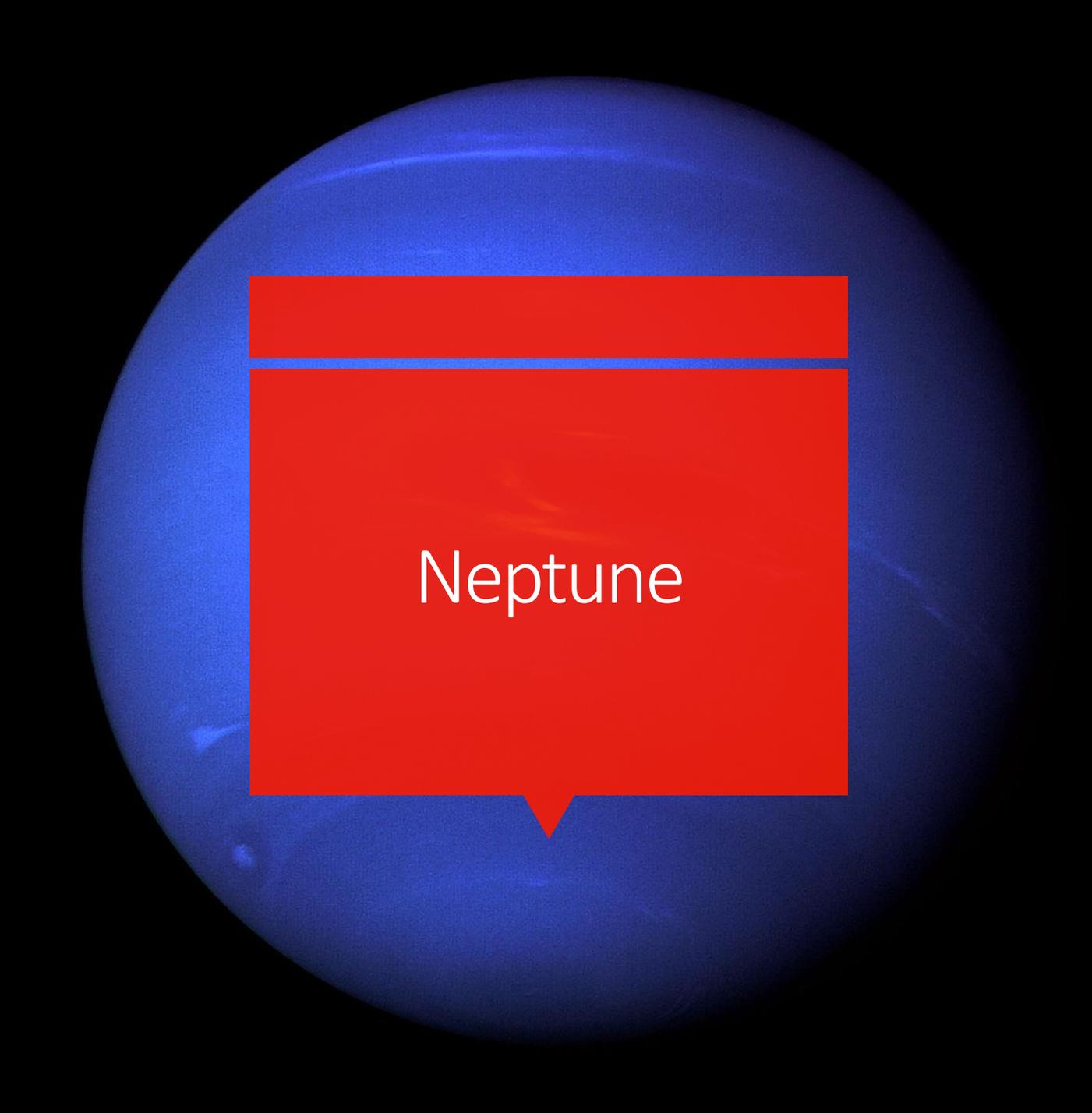
Uranus is the 7th planet from the sun. Only 2 spacecraft have flown past Uranus! It is the coldest planet in the Solar System.

This planet has 13 pale rings round it. Unlike all the other planets, Uranus spins on its side, like a ball.

Did you know that Uranus has the longest winter ever. It lasts for 21 years!

A day on Uranus is 17 hours and a year is 30,687 Earth days! Uranus has 27 moons.

It was named after the Greek god of the sky, Uranus.



Neptune

Finally, Neptune. The planet that is furthest away from the Sun.

This planet was discovered using maths by Joseph le Verrier. He worked out that something was changing about Uranus' orbit. He sent out his astronomer and they found Neptune almost straight away!

Voyager 2 discovered that Neptune has 5 faint rings circling it, like Saturn and Uranus!

Neptune was named after the Roman god of the sea. A day on Neptune is 16 hours, and a year is 60,189 Earth days!

Did you know that ever since Neptune was founded, it has finally done 1 orbit of the sun!?

Neptune also has a spot, a storm raging. It's called the Great Dark Spot!



The Asteroid Belt

In between Mars and Jupiter is an Asteroid Belt, that is also travelling around the sun.

The biggest asteroid has a name, it's called Ceres. It's too small to be a planet and too large to an asteroid, so, it's a dwarf planet like Pluto.

Did you know that some asteroids have their own moons, they are that big!?

Extra Star Facts!

People used to think that there might be life on Mars!

There is no wind on the moon, so you could still see Neil Armstrong's footprints if you went there!

Oceans have high and low tides because of the pull of the moon!

In 1974, Mariner 4 photographed nearly half of the planet, Mercury!

Jupiter is so big that all the other planets can fit inside it! (The same for the Sun!)