

Planet Name Origins

Each of the nine planets has a name taken from Roman gods and goddesses, Each of these names describes something special about the planet.

- Mercury:** named after the Roman messenger god who was known for his ability to travel quickly with wings on his feet. Mercury travels in orbit the shortest time of all planets.
- Venus:** named after the goddess of love and beauty. The planet Venus is the brightest object in our sky after the sun and the moon, and is always a beautiful sight.
- Mars:** the Roman god of war. Red is the colour of blood and war and Mars is the Red Planet. The colour is due to a type of rust in the soil.
- Jupiter:** the supreme god of the ancient Romans. The planet Jupiter, the largest planet in our solar system, is thus named after the king of the gods,
- Saturn:** the king of the Titans who ruled the world before Jupiter, also the god of agriculture and bundance, Saturn occupies an important place in the sky and has an abundance of moons >30 at last count.
- Uranus:** the original Roman sky god. It was originally named Georges Star after King George III of England.
- Neptune:** named after the Roman god of the sea. For many years, Neptune was thought to lie on the edge of the Solar System, watching over the vast oceans of space.
- Pluto:** Pluto was the brother of Jupiter and Neptune and the god of the underworld. The underworld was supposed to be dark and cold just like the planet Pluto.

