

+ Researchers

More women astronomers who have contributed to our knowledge about the Solar System:

Aglaonike

(Greece, Second Century BC)

An astronomer who could forecast eclipses of the Moon.

Fátima de Madrid

(Madrid/Córdoba, XVI-XVII Centuries)

Fátima worked with her father, who was also an astronomer, in Moorish Spain. She computed the positions of the Sun, the Moon and the planets.



Maria Cunitz

(Silesia, Germany, 1610-1684)

She was the author of the work *Urania Propitia* in which she elucidated Kepler's theories and corrected some of his errors.

Maria Winkelmann Kirch

(Germany, 1670-1720)

Discovered a comet and published a work on the conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn. She also worked on computing the positions of the Sun, the Moon and the planets.

Nicole-Reine Lepaute

(France, 1723-1788)

One of the foremost astronomical computers of her day. She was a member of the team that calculated the orbit of Halley's comet. She also worked on solar eclipses.



Caroline Herschel

(Germany, 1750-1848)

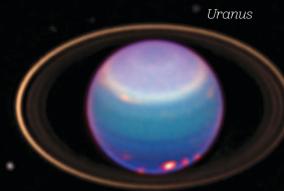
Discovered Uranus, the first planet to be discovered that is not visible to the naked eye, with her brother William. She was responsible for many other discoveries including eight comets and three nebulae and also contributed research into binary stars.



Carolyn Shoemaker

(United States, 1929)

Joint discoverer of the Shoemaker-Levy 9 comet in 1993, when she was working at the Mount Palomar Observatory in the United States. Holds the current record for sole discovery of comets. In 2002 her total stood at 32.



Uranus

The Sun and the bodies orbiting around it make up the Solar System.

The others

Rocky planets: These are mainly made up of silicates. Their atmospheres are affected by geological and, in the case of the Earth, biological activity. There are four rocky planets in the Solar System: **Mercury, Venus, the Earth and Mars.** The Earth also has a rocky satellite, the **Moon**, and Mars has two, **Deimos and Phobos.**

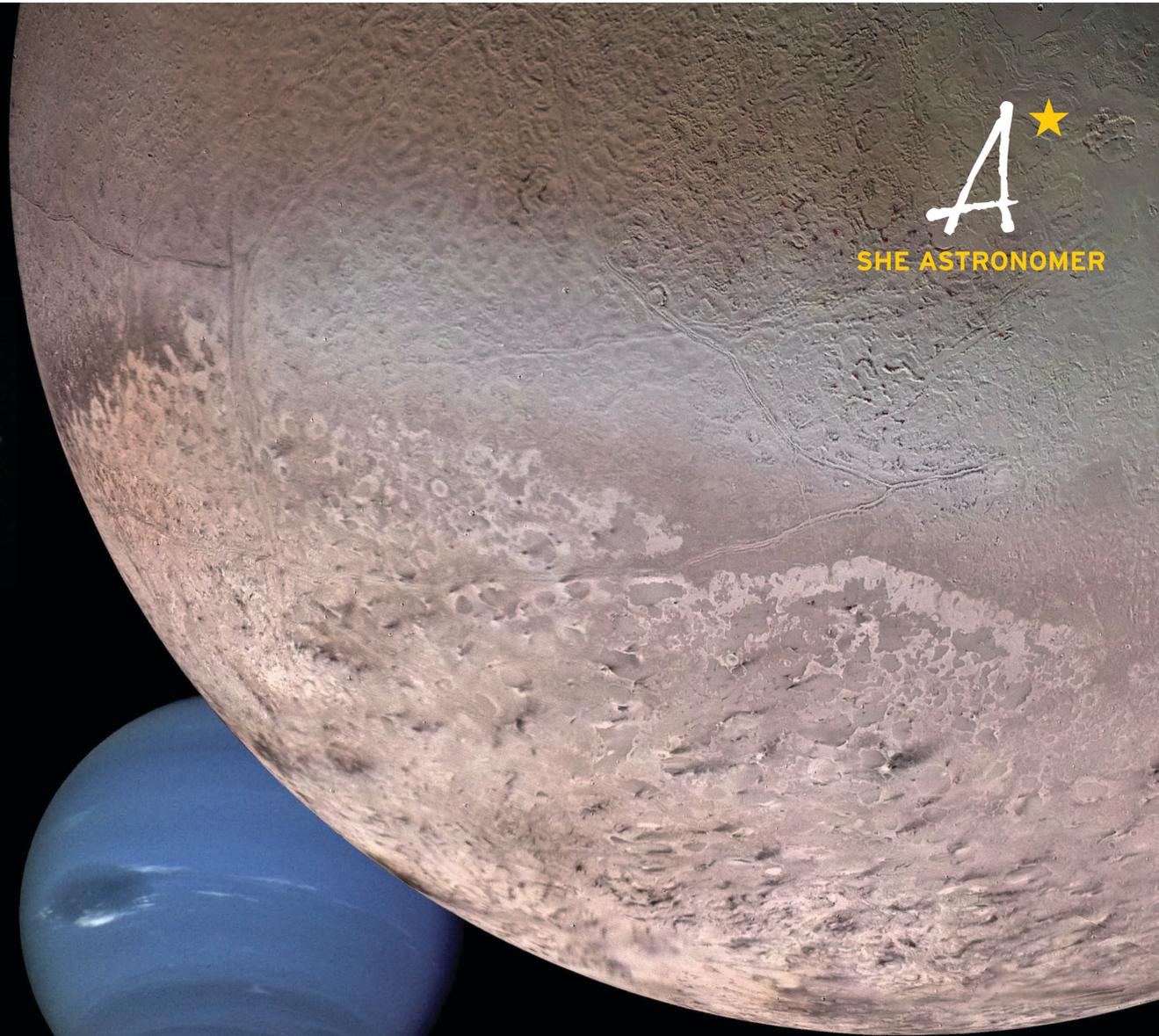
Giant planets: These are mainly made up of hydrogen and helium, like stars. There are four in our solar system: **Jupiter and Saturn**, which are gassy bodies; and **Uranus and Neptune**, which are largely made up of ice. All of them have many satellites, as well as ring systems made up of rocks, dust and frozen water.

Dwarf planets: these are smaller than rocky and giant planets but larger than the other objects in the Solar System. They are different from other planets because they have not "cleared" a free path through their orbits. There are currently five objects in this category: **Ceres, Pluto, Eris, Makemake and Haumea.**

Minor bodies: in addition to planets there are smaller bodies in the Solar System, which are generally not spherical in form. They are grouped into three areas: **the asteroid belt, the Kuiper belt and the Oort Cloud.**



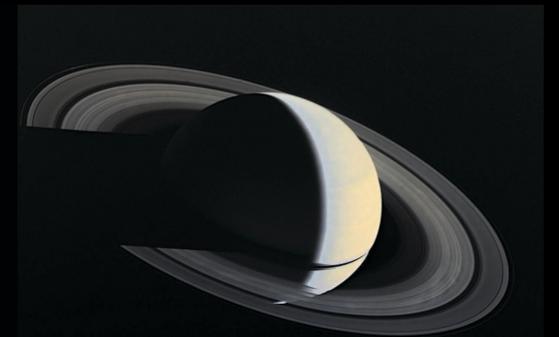
Jupiter



A 
SHE ASTRONOMER



Mars



Saturn