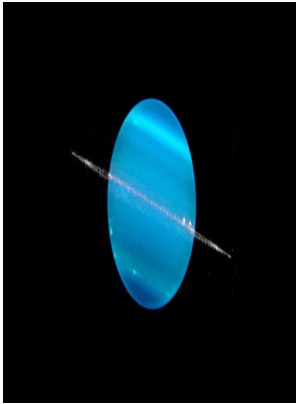


# Sideways planet - Uranus

## Picture Window Books - Planet Uranus



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Notes: Includes bibliographical references (p. 24) and index.

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### Five Facts About Uranus, the Tilted Planet

Magnetic fields are typically in alignment with a planet's rotation, but Uranus' magnetic field is tipped over: the magnetic axis is tilted nearly 60 degrees from the planet's axis of rotation, and is also offset from the center of the planet by one-third of the planet's radius. William Herschel tried unsuccessfully to name his discovery Georgium Sidus after King George III.

### Uranus => Sideways Ice Giant

Some of the larger rings are surrounded by belts of fine dust. Fryer, for instance, is currently developing new simulations that forecast what substances might have been forged in the heat of the collision as opposed to less dramatic formation scenarios, in which the planet would have stayed cooler.

### Is Uranus really tilted on its side?

The inner rings are narrow and dark. These planets differ from the gas giants because they are composed primarily of frozen water, ammonia, and methane rather than hydrogen and helium. That means two out of eight planets rotate out of alignment with the rest of the Solar System.

### Uranus => Sideways Ice Giant

Two of Uranus' moons, Cordelia and Ophelia, act as shepherding moons for one of the rings. An interesting effect of Uranus' sideways tilt is that the tail of the planet's magnetic field is twisted like a corkscrew.

### Uranus: Why's It Sideways?

Uranus Facts Average temperature: -195°C -320°F where atmospheric pressure equals sea level on Earth Average distance from Sun: 2,873 million kilometers 1,785 million miles , or 19 times farther from the Sun than Earth Diameter: 51,118 kilometers 31,763 miles , Uranus is 4 times wider than Earth Volume: 68 trillion km<sup>3</sup> 16 trillion mi<sup>3</sup> , Earth could fit inside Uranus 68 times Gravity: 8.

### Uranus

It shines like a blue green gem in the heavens.

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