

# Outer Space!

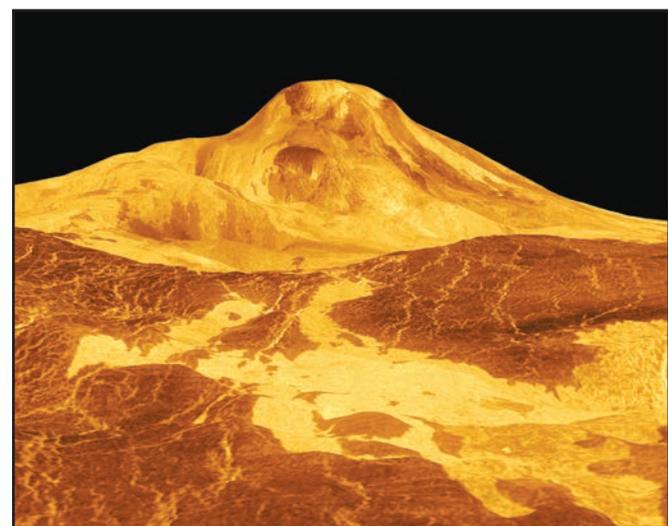
## The Planet Venus

Venus is the second planet from the sun and the closest planet to Earth. It is named after the Roman Goddess of love and beauty. In Greek, her name was Aphrodite. Its size makes it the sixth largest planet in the Solar System.

It's extremely hot and deadly atmosphere makes it nearly impossible for any human to explore it's surface. Venus' atmosphere is far thicker than that of Earth. It is only recently that scientists have been able to peek through its thick clouds and get a glimpse of the surface. The clouds surrounding Venus are comprised mostly of sulfuric acid.

The diameter of Venus is about 7,520 miles. Venus is known as Earth's twin sister because of its similar size. It is the brightest planet viewed from Earth. It takes 224 days for Venus to orbit around the sun. Venus also rotates from east to west. Instead of

the Sun rising in the east and setting in the west, the Sun on Venus would appear to rise in the west and set in the east. The only other planet that does this is Uranus. Venus' rotation is 243 Earth days and with an orbit of 224 days - it's day



Maat Mons is more than 5 miles high!



is longer than its year!

Venus has no moons or rings! The two planets closest to the Sun have no rings or moons, which puts Venus in the company of only one other world: Mercury. Every other planet in the Solar System has one or the other, or in many cases both!

The surface of Venus is very dry with flat plains, highland regions and depressions. The interior is composed of a central iron core and a molten rocky mantle, similar to the composition of the Earth. Its orbital speed is 78,292 miles per hour.

Venus has many volcanoes. It also has a few mountainous areas along with extensive flat areas. There are craters. Venus has mountains that are higher than Earths. Maat Mons is more than five miles high!