

READING PASSAGE · LEVEL 1 · EMERGING

URANUS: THE SIDEWAYS PLANET

A short reader for younger learners (Ages 6–8)

Uranus is a strange planet. It spins on its side! Imagine a ball rolling along the ground instead of standing up to spin. That is what Uranus does as it goes around the Sun.

Uranus is light blue. It looks like a smooth, calm ball — different from the stripey gas giants.

Uranus is very, very cold. It is so far from the Sun that even a "warm" day there would freeze you in seconds.

Uranus has rings, but they are very thin and dark. They go up and down because Uranus is tipped on its side!

Uranus has 28 moons. They are named after characters from old plays and poems.

★ WORDS TO KNOW 3 TERMS

spin
To turn around in place.

tilt
To lean over to one side.

ring
A flat circle around a planet.

★ COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS 4 QUESTIONS

1. What is strange about the way Uranus moves?

2. What colour is Uranus?

3. Why is Uranus so cold?

4. Why are Uranus's rings up and down instead of flat?

★ NOW YOU DRAW IT!

Draw Uranus below. Can you show how it lies on its side, with rings going up and down?