Saturn

Saturn's Rings Go Spinning Round



30

almost 30 Earth years for one orbit



Look closer: those rings are full of pieces!

A ringed giant

Saturn is a gas giant with bright, wide rings.

Many separate pieces

Its rings contain mostly ice, with rocky material and dust.

Each piece travels

Ring particles orbit Saturn. The rings are not one solid skating rink.

A long year

One trip around the Sun takes almost 30 Earth years.

PARTICLE A small piece of something, such as ice or dust.

Bea asks

Could Bea skate on the rings?

○ One smooth rink ○ No, separate pieces

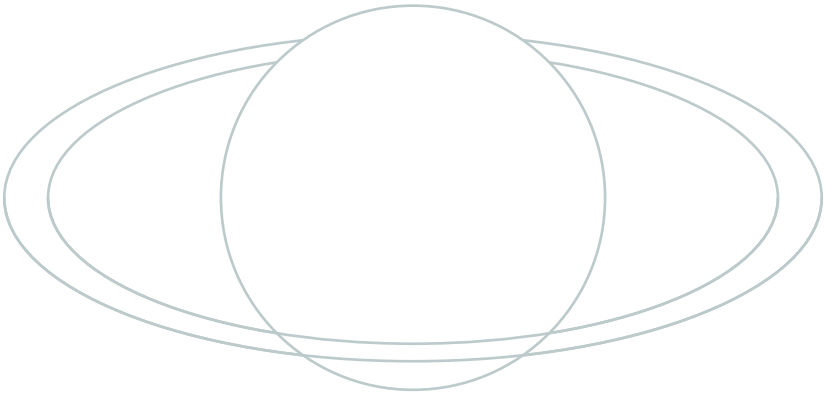
Can you find the little clay fish on this page?

Saturn: your mission

Use a pencil or crayons. You can tell an answer instead of writing it.

Turn a ring into tiny pieces

Fill the ring band with little dots for icy pieces. Leave gaps between them. Keep the planet itself clear.



Show lots of separate pieces in the ring band.

Read together: Look closer at the rings

From far away, many separate pieces can look like one band. Make a ring from tiny torn paper pieces, leaving gaps. Saturn is not the only ringed planet: Jupiter, Uranus and Neptune have rings too.

Bea's skating puzzle

Tick the true sentence.

[ ] Saturn's rings are one solid floor.

[ ] Separate pieces move around Saturn.

Explain your choice to someone.

For grown-ups: No, separate pieces. Separate pieces move around Saturn. There are gaps, and the pieces are moving. One Saturn year is about 29.4 Earth years.