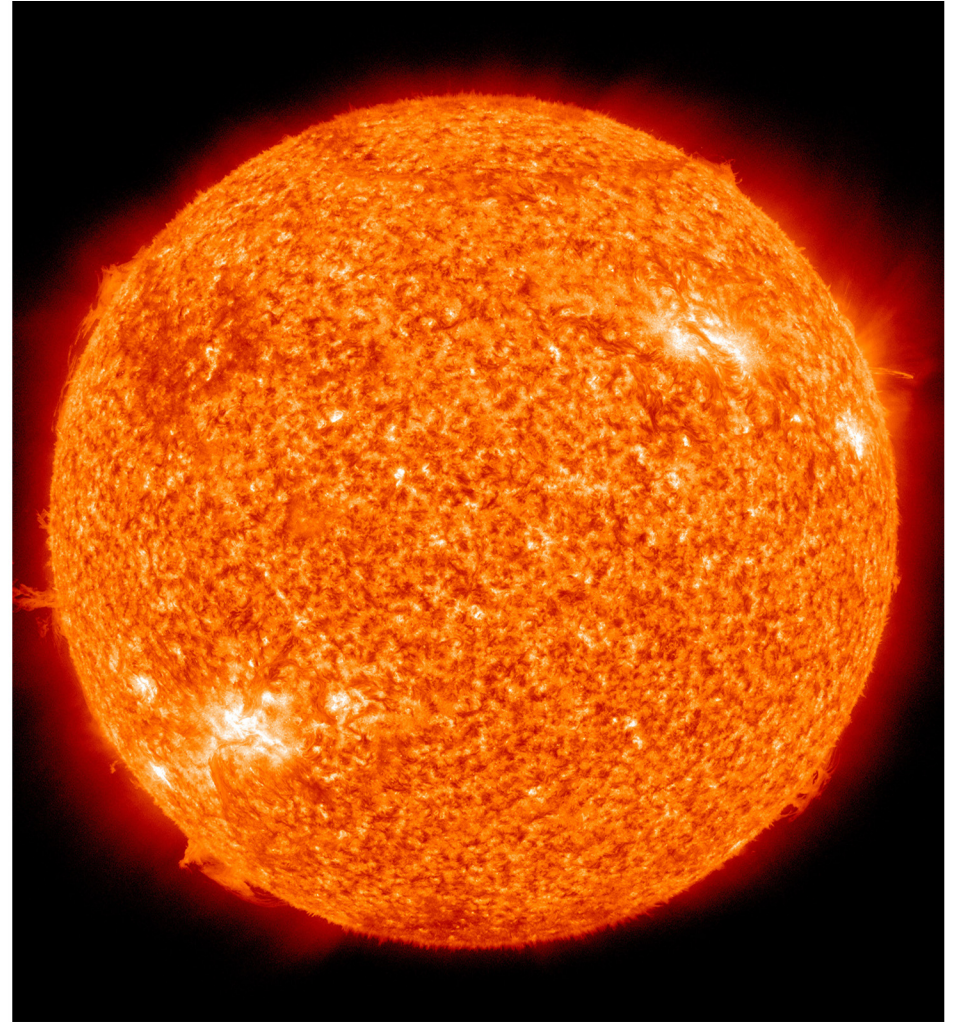


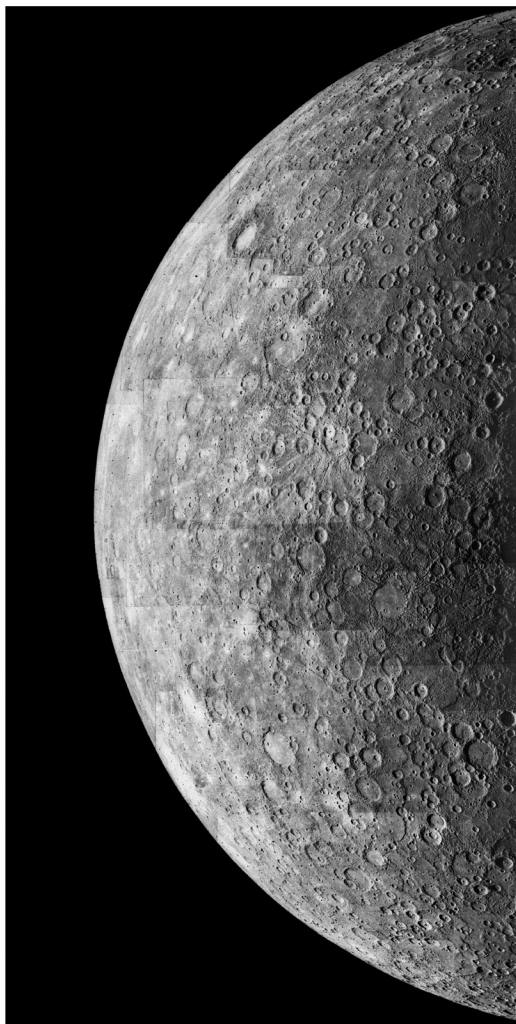


Artist's conception of the Milky Way galaxy, the home of the Solar System. It contains between 100-400 billion stars and at least 50 billion planets.



The Sun is the star at the center of the Solar System. It was formed about 4.57 billion years ago. Sunlight supports almost all life on Earth.





Mercury is the smallest planet in the solar system and the one nearest to the Sun.

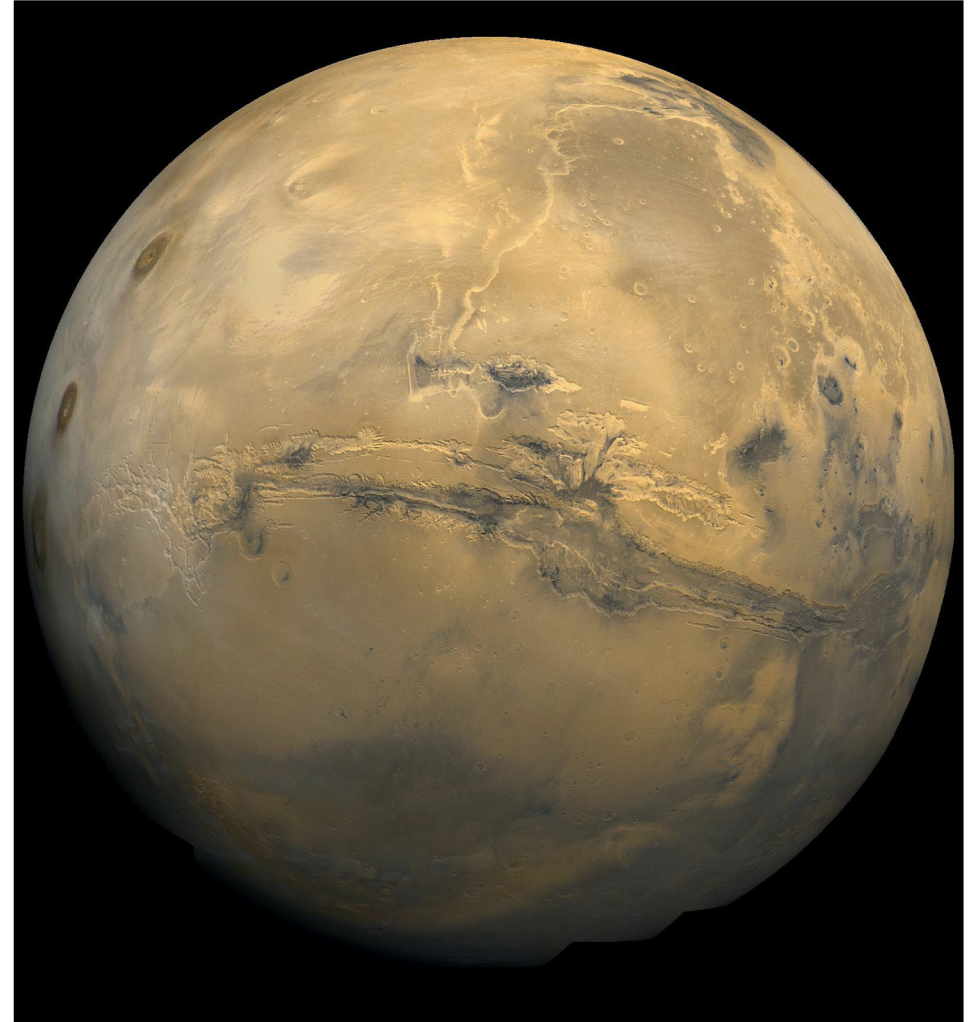


Venus is the second planet from the Sun. After the Moon, it is the brightest natural object in the night sky. It reaches its maximum brightness just before sunrise or just after sunset.

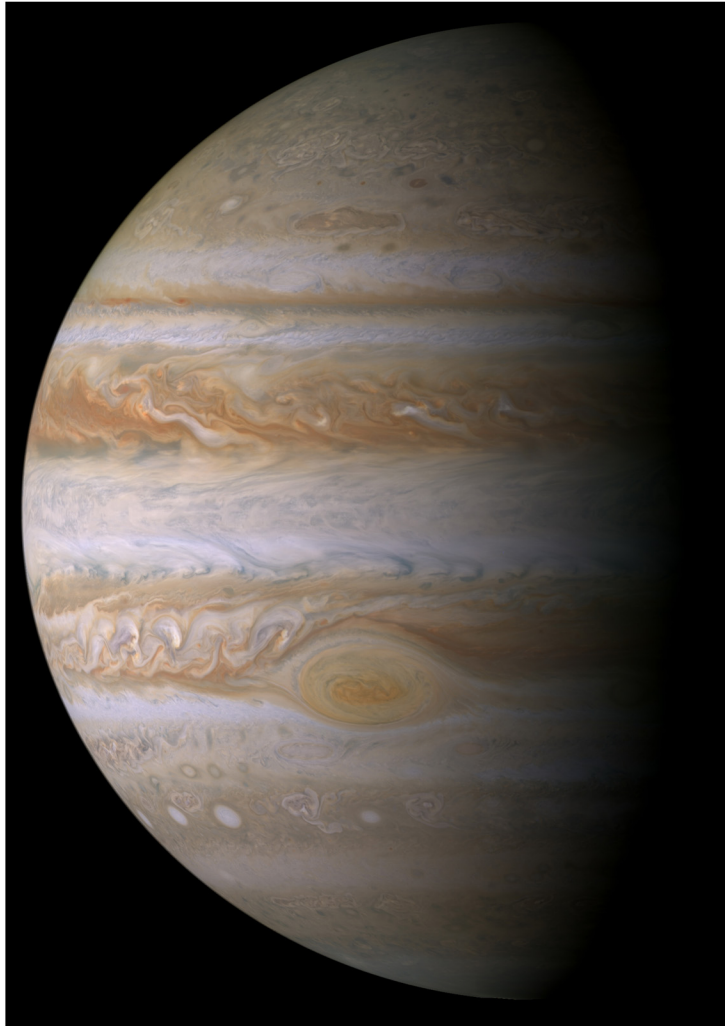




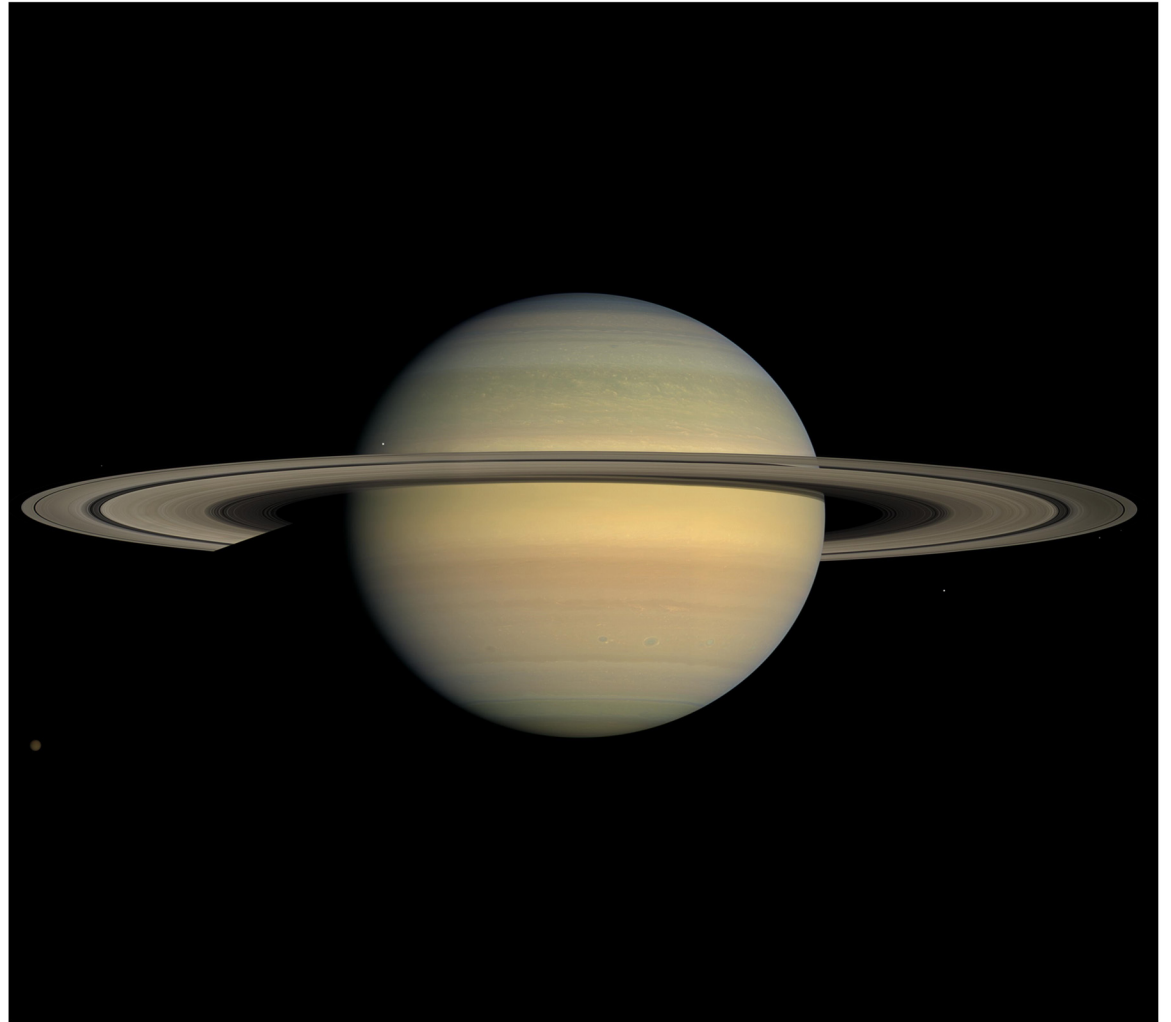
Earth is the third planet from the Sun and the densest in the Solar System. It is home to millions of species including humans.



Mars is the fourth planet from the Sun in the Solar System. It is known as the Red Planet because the surface has a reddish tint.

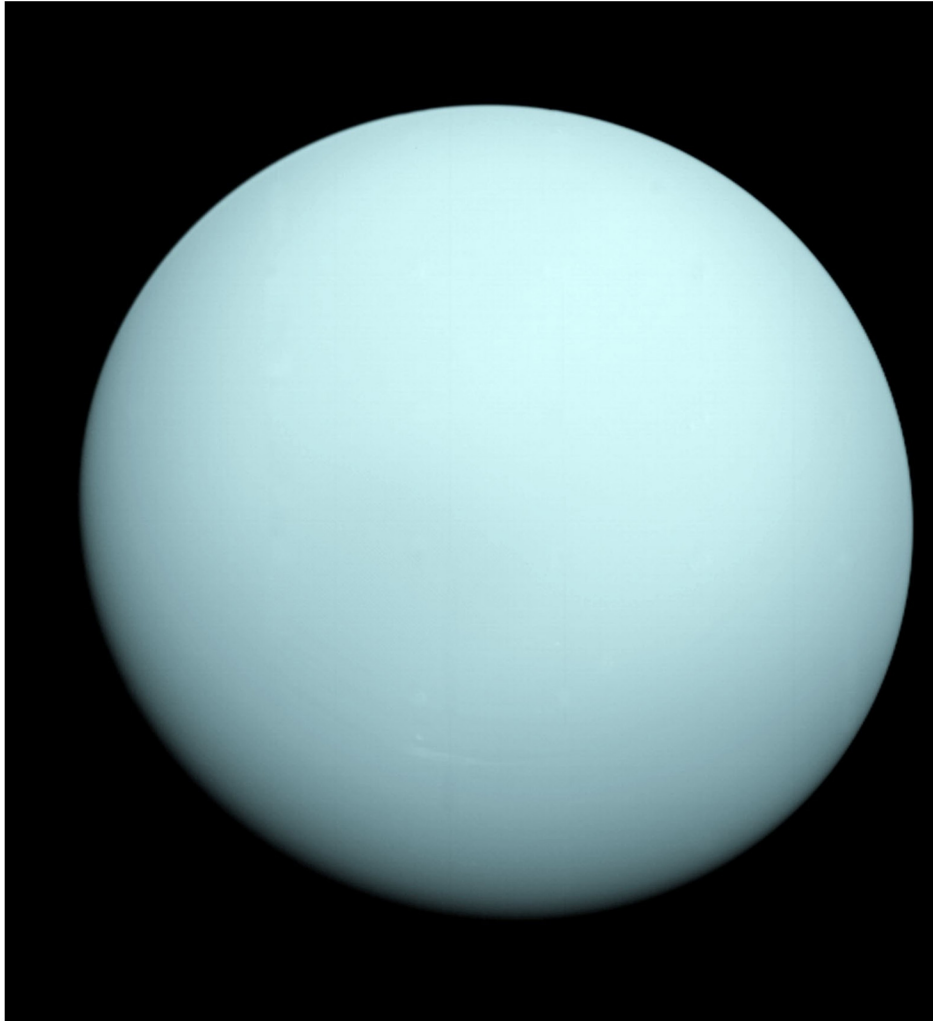


Jupiter is the largest planet within the Solar System and the fifth planet from the Sun.

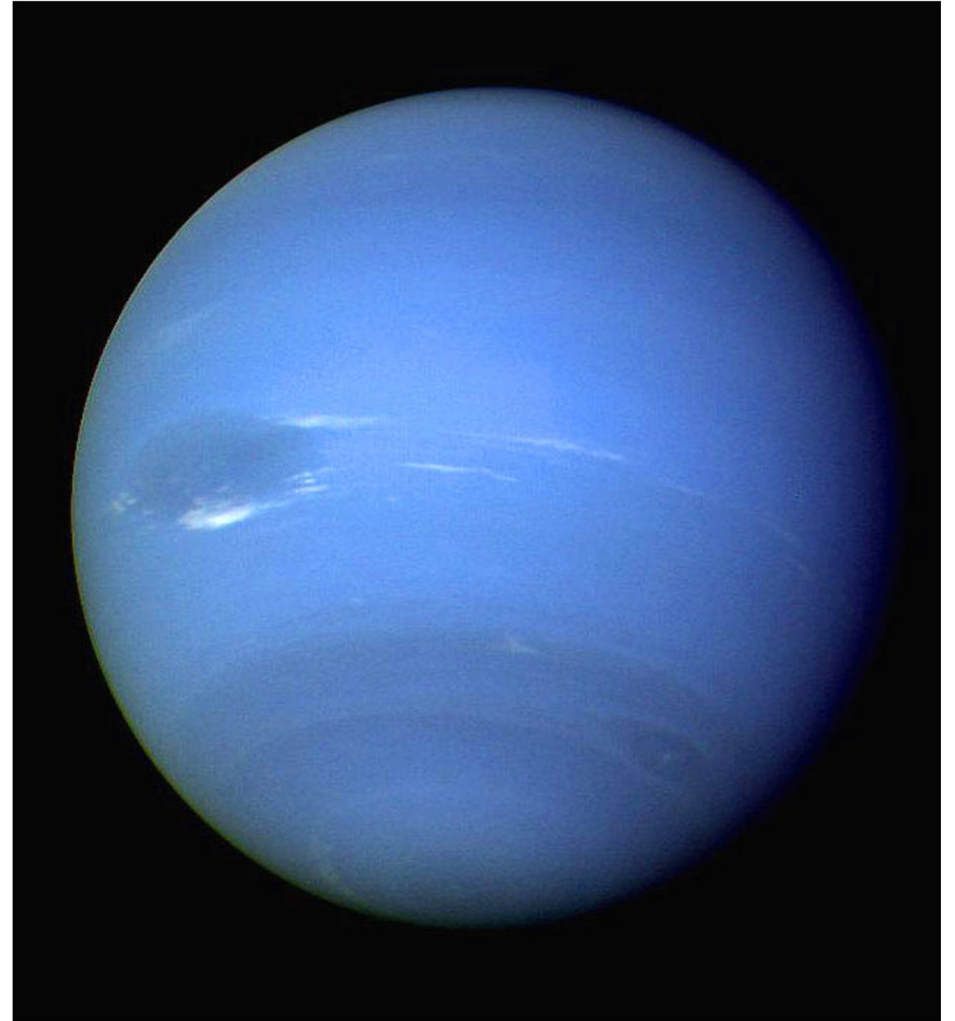


Saturn is the second largest planet in the Solar System and the sixth planet from the Sun. It has nine rings that orbit the planet. These rings consist of ice particles, rock debris and dust.





Uranus is the seventh planet from the Sun and was the first to be discovered with a telescope. It is the coldest planet in the Solar System.



Neptune is the eighth and farthest planet from the Sun. It has the strongest sustained winds of any planet in the Solar System.





The Moon is Earth's only natural satellite. It is thought to have formed approximately 4.5 billion years ago in a giant impact event involving Earth.

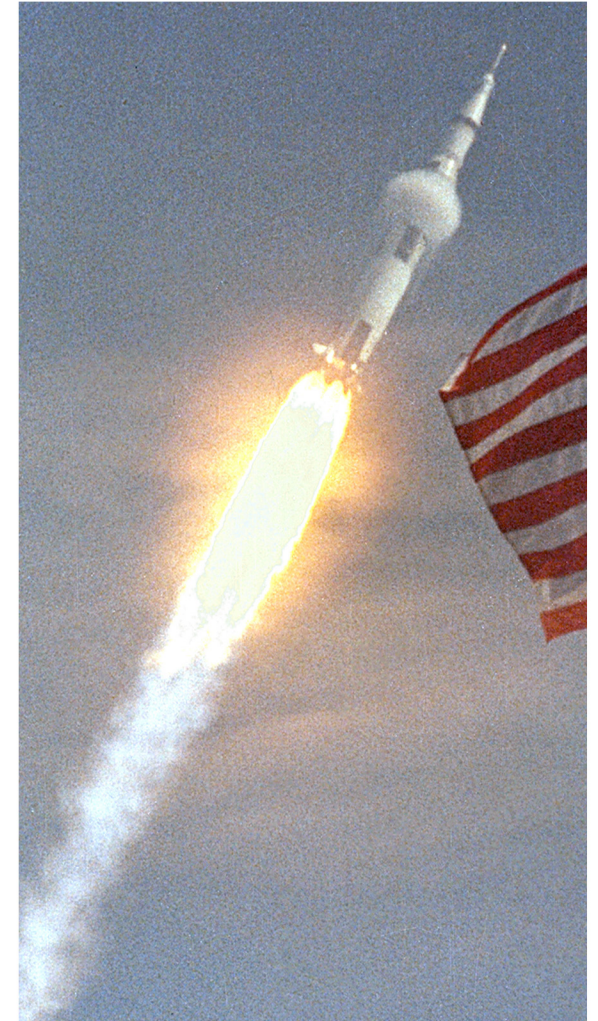


Astronaut Harrison Schmitt standing next to a huge boulder on the moon during the Apollo 17 mission. December 13, 1972.



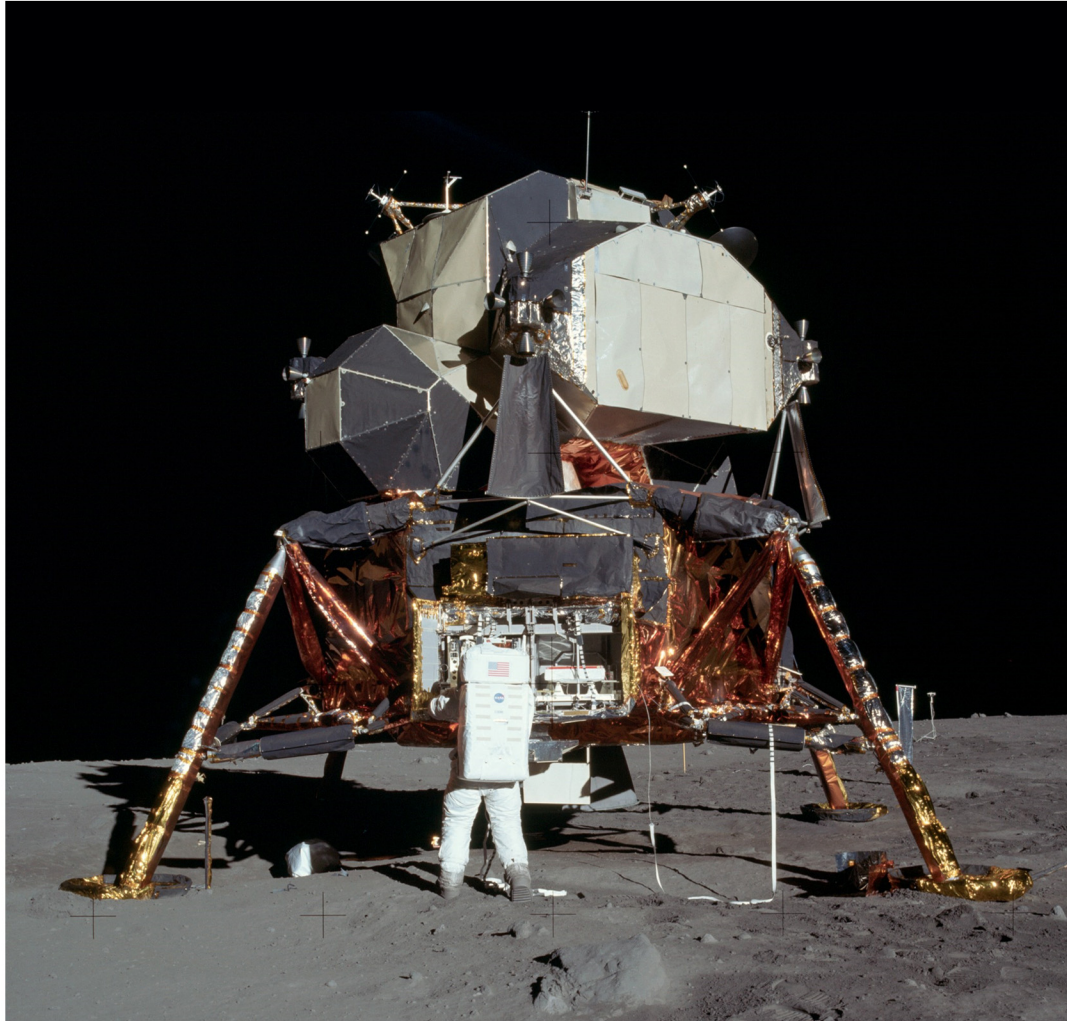


The crew of the Apollo 11 lunar landing mission, the the spaceflight that landed the first humans on Earth's Moon. From left to right they are: Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins and Edwin 'Buzz' Aldrin Jr.



The Apollo 11 Saturn V rocket launches from the Kennedy Space Center, 16 July 1969.





Buzz Aldrin and the Lunar Lander on the moon, 20 July 1969. The Lunar Lander carried Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong from lunar orbit to the surface and back.

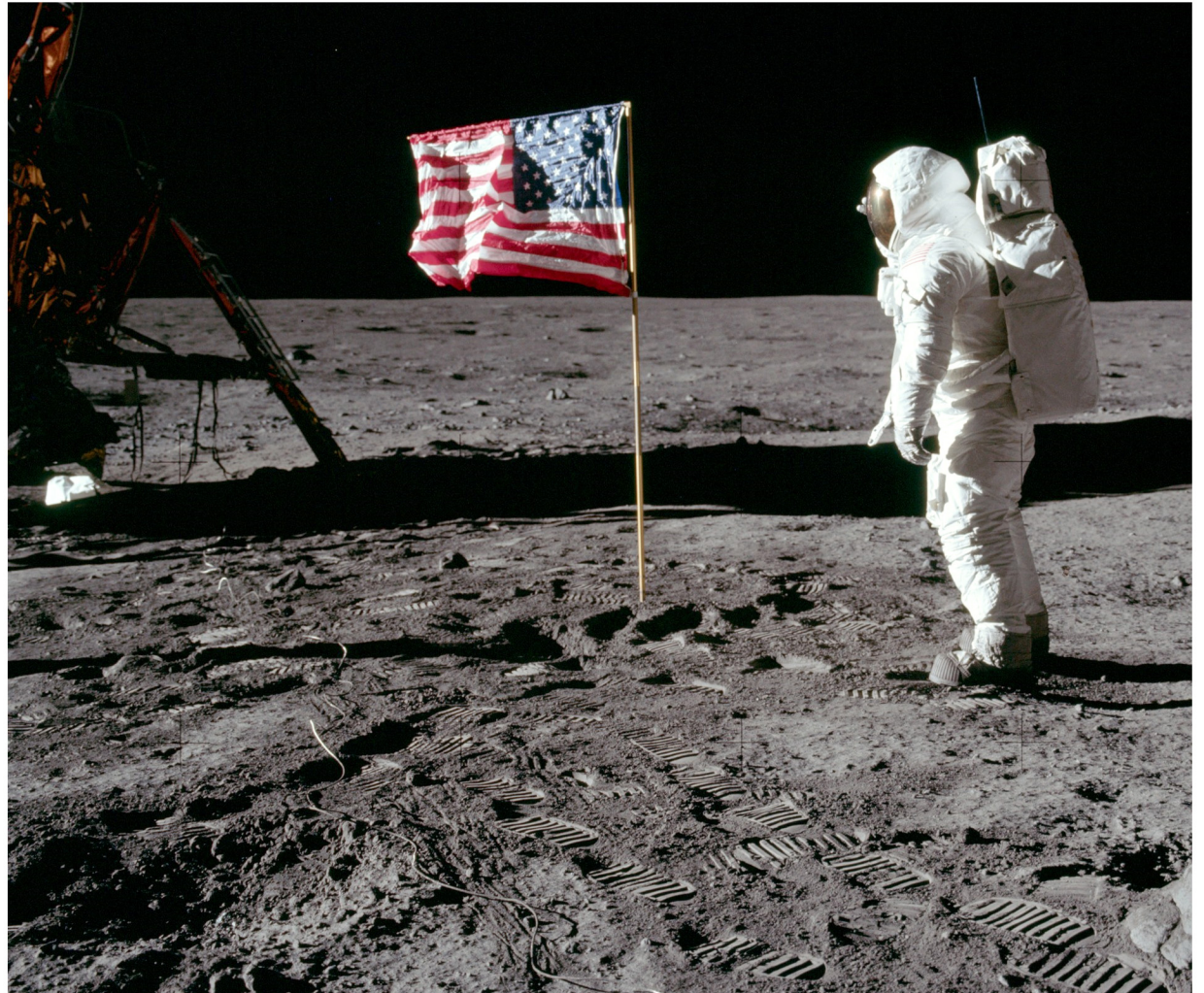


Buzz Aldrin walking on the moon, 20 July 1969.





Buzz Aldrin's footprint on the moon,  
July 21 1969.



Buzz Aldrin planting the American flag on the moon, 20 July 1969.





Launch of the Space shuttle Atlantis from NASA's Kennedy Space Center, 14 May 2010.





Space Shuttle Endeavour above planet Earth, 10 August 2007.





The control console on the flight deck of the Space Shuttle Atlantis.

Space shuttle Discovery lands at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, 9 March 2011.





Flight Control Room, Johnson Space Center, Houston.



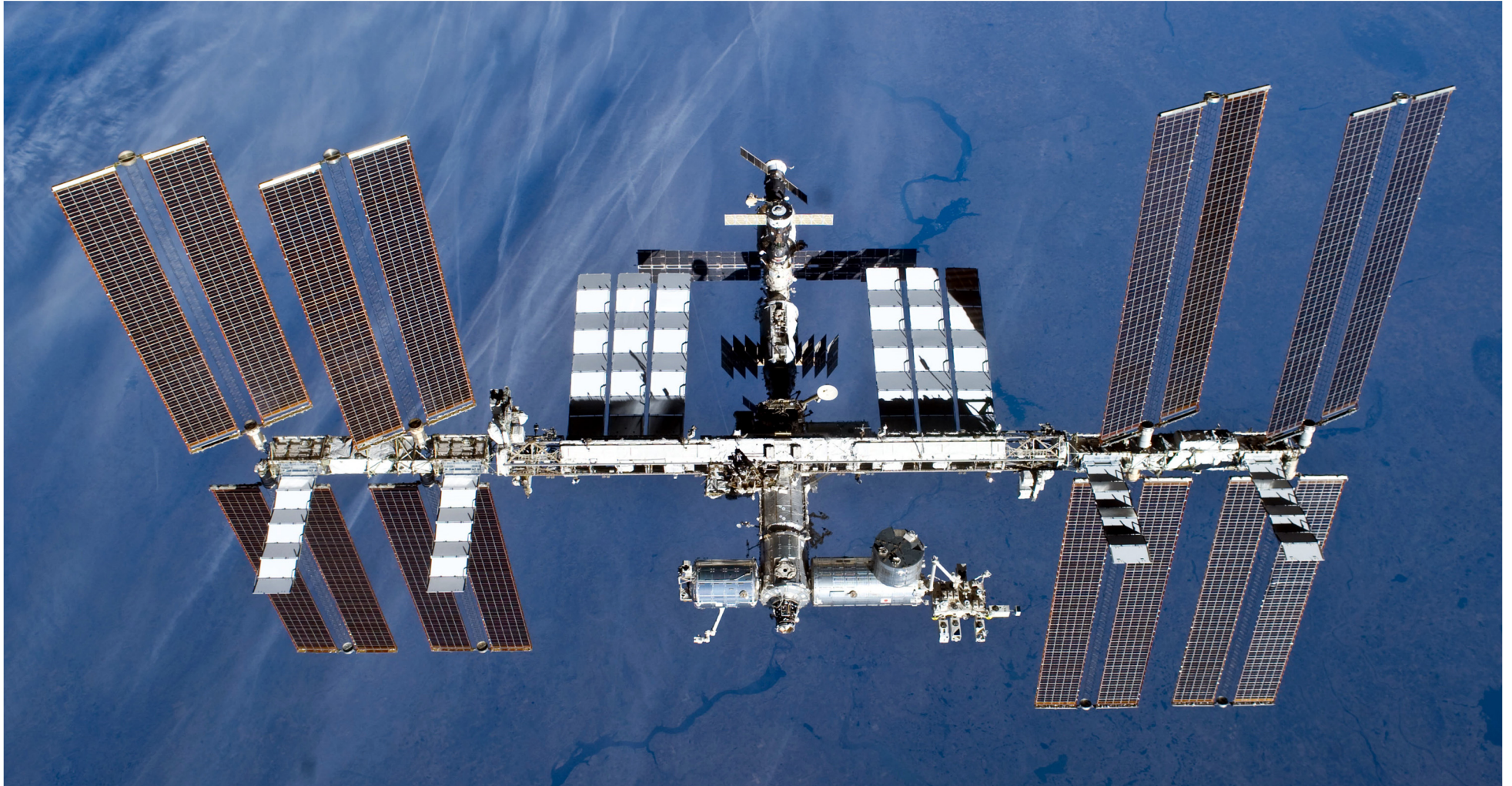


Astronaut Bruce McCandless floats in space, February 11, 1984.



The Hubble telescope. One of the largest telescopes in space, its orbit outside the Earth's atmosphere allows it to take very sharp images of outer space.





International Space Station. The International Space Station is a manned, artificial satellite being constructed in low Earth orbit. It operates primarily as a research laboratory / factory in space.





The surface of Mars captured by a roving probe carried by the Mars Pathfinder spacecraft, September 8 1999.