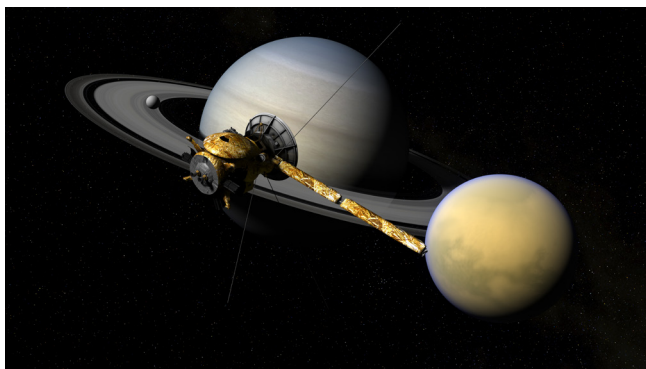


MORNING STAR

GIANT HURRICANE FOUND ON SATURN

Scientists at NASA say a giant hurricane on Saturn, 1500 miles wide, has been photographed by their roving spacecraft, Cassini.

Cassini, which was launched way back in 2004, has been snapping all sorts of amazing images during its 77 000 mph journey through our solar system but its latest pictures have sent the space-science community into an intergalactic spin!

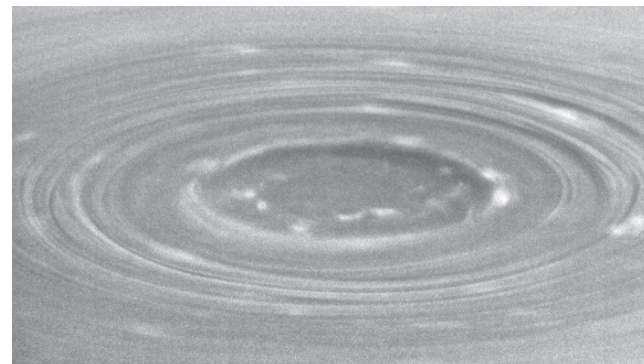


On April 26, 2017, the spacecraft dived down between Saturn and its innermost rings, and what it photographed astounded scientists back on Earth. “We did a double take when we saw this... because it looks so much like a hurricane on Earth,” Andrew Ingersoll (a NASA team member) explained.

The hurricane, which is about as wide as the continent of Europe, has probably been churning for years, sometimes at speeds of up to 330 mph!

Scientists have long known about Saturn’s violent weather patterns. In 1980, NASA’s space

probe, Voyager, measured winds at 1,100 mph – which is about the same speed as an RAF Tornado fighter plane! Plus, keen-eyed astronomers have witnessed storms the size of Earth, using powerful telescopes.



But it is Cassini’s ability to get close and photograph the hurricane that has delighted scientists the world over.



1. How fast did Cassini travel on its way through the solar system?



2. How wide is the hurricane that Cassini photographed? Tick two.

1500 miles ☐

the width of Earth ☐

77,000 miles ☐

the width of the continent of Europe ☐



3. ‘...its latest pictures have sent the space-science community into an intergalactic spin!’
a) Think about what types of people might make up the space-science community. Write down two of them:

b) According to the report, the pictures of the giant hurricane on Saturn have sent them into an ‘intergalactic spin’. What do you think it means by this?



4. It took NASA years to build Cassini, then 13 years for it to reach Saturn. Millions of dollars have been spent on it. Imagine you are the Head Scientist at NASA in charge of the Cassini mission. You have been asked to say some words on TV about the photos of the giant hurricane and how you feel about them:
