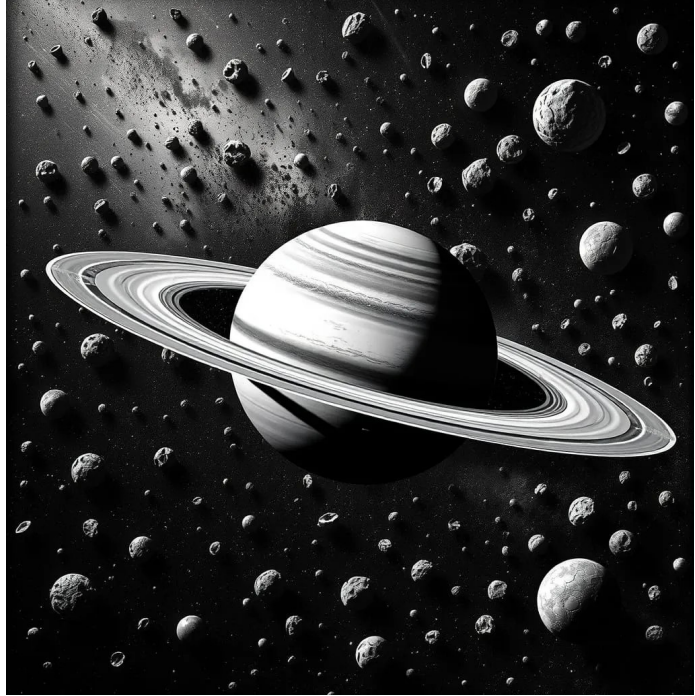


# Scientists Discover 128 New Moons Around Saturn

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Astronomers have discovered 128 new moons around Saturn, bringing its total to 274. This is almost twice as many as all the other planets combined. Saturn is now the planet with the most moons in the solar system, far ahead of Jupiter, which has 95 confirmed moons. Scientists used a telescope in Hawaii to find these new moons, after they first spotted hints of them in earlier research.



The new moons are not large, round moons like Earth's moon. Instead, they are small, irregularly shaped, and only a few kilometers wide. Scientists believe they were once part of bigger moons that broke apart in violent collisions millions of years ago. Many of these moons are part of a group called the "Norse cluster," meaning they will eventually be named after Norse gods. However, scientists are running out of names, so they may need to adjust their naming system in the future. Right now, there is no exact definition of what counts as a moon, and some scientists think there should be one, especially as more small moons are discovered.

Studying these moons could give scientists clues about the past of our solar system. Many of Saturn's small moons seem to be leftover pieces from past collisions, and learning more about them might help explain how Saturn's famous rings were formed. Some scientists believe the rings could be the remains of a moon that was torn apart by Saturn's gravity.

## Comprehension Questions:

1. Which planet has the second most moons?  
a) Saturn  
b) Jupiter  
c) Uranus  
d) The article doesn't say
2. Scientists are running out of names. What does this mean?  
a) They have too many names left to use  
b) They have no more names to give  
c) They are tired from working too much  
d) They are fast runners
3. What does "collision" mean?  
a) A gentle movement of objects  
b) Something disappearing suddenly  
c) An object floating in space  
d) Two things crashing into each other

4. Why do scientists think Saturn's small moons were once part of larger moons?
- a) They are all the same size.
  - b) They orbit in perfect circles.
  - c) They are irregularly shaped and small.
  - d) They are made of metal.
5. Scientists first spotted hints of the moons in earlier research. What does this mean?
- a) They clearly saw the moons long ago
  - b) They saw the moons with their eyes from Earth
  - c) They didn't believe the moons were real
  - d) They had small clues about the moons before
6. Which of these statements is false?
- a) Saturn has more moons than Jupiter.
  - b) The new moons were discovered using a telescope in Hawaii.
  - c) All of Saturn's moons are large and round.
  - d) Scientists might need new ways to name the moons.
7. What does the discovery of these moons suggest about Saturn's rings?
- a) They may have come from broken moons.
  - b) They are made of living organisms.
  - c) They have always been in the same shape.
  - d) They are not related to moons at all.
8. What does the article suggest about the future of naming Saturn's moons?
- a) Scientists will stop naming moons.
  - b) They will only use Greek god names.
  - c) They will name moons after famous astronauts.
  - d) They might need new rules for naming them.
9. What does the discovery suggest about space exploration?
- a) There is still much we don't know.
  - b) We have discovered everything about Saturn.
  - c) Scientists do not need telescopes.
  - d) Planets always have the same number of moons.
10. What is the main idea of the article?
- a) Some planets in our solar system have a lot of moons.
  - b) Scientists discovered many new moons around Saturn.
  - c) Saturn has more moons than Jupiter.
  - d) Several Norse gods live on Saturn.

**Speaking and Writing Activities:**

- Discuss these questions with a partner or a small group
  - Choose one topic and write a response to it. Show your writing to a classmate or teacher.
1. How much do you know about the planets in our solar system? Share as much as you can remember.
  2. Many countries have space exploration programs. Do you think this is a good use of money, or should it be used for something else?
  3. Our planet has only one moon. What are some stories or beliefs that your culture has about the moon?