

Solar System & Nature

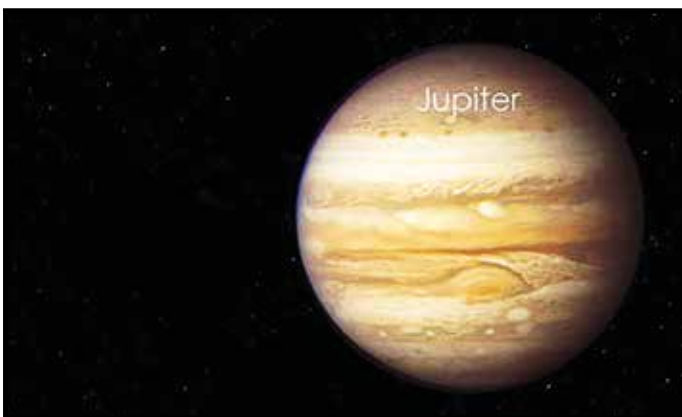
Largest Uncut Diamond

The largest ever single rough uncut diamond was the '**Cullinan**', which weighed 3,106.75 carats when found in 1905 in South Africa.



The Largest Planet

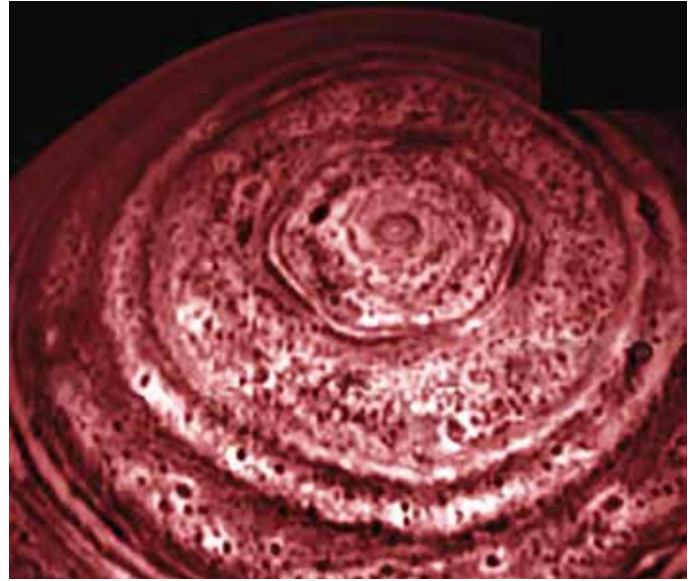
Our Solar System's biggest body is **Jupiter**, its equatorial diameter is 143,884 km and it has a polar diameter of 133,708. Its mass and volume are around 317 and 1,323 times that of Earth respectively. Jupiter also has the shortest day of any planet in the Solar System, at just 9 hours 55 minutes 29.69 seconds.



The Largest Hexagon

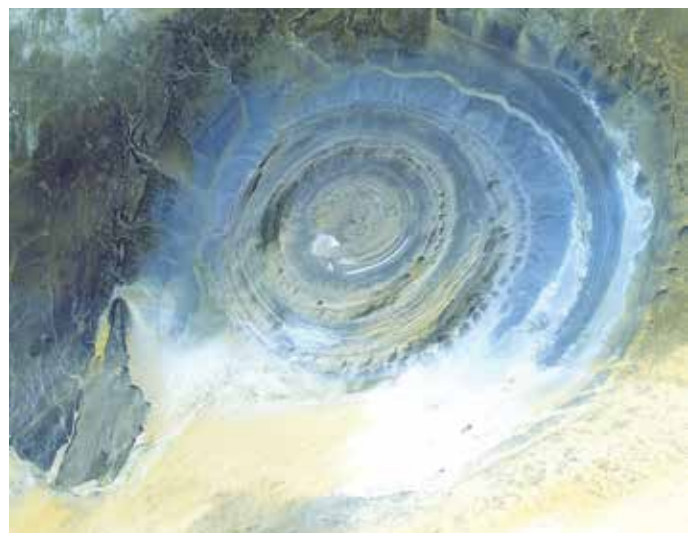
The largest hexagon in our Solar System is on Saturn's North Pole, where a massive pattern of hexagonal clouds, with sides measuring around 13,800 km in length, is located. It was first seen by the *Voyager* in the early 1980s and has since been

studied in more details, proving that it has lasted for at least 30 years.



Largest Geological Structure Discovered from Space

The "bullseye" of the Richat Structure in the Sahara desert of Mauritania was discovered from orbit by US astronauts Jim McDivitt and Ed White during the *Gemini IV* mission in June 1965. It has a diameter of 50 km.



Lowest Temperature Recorded on Earth

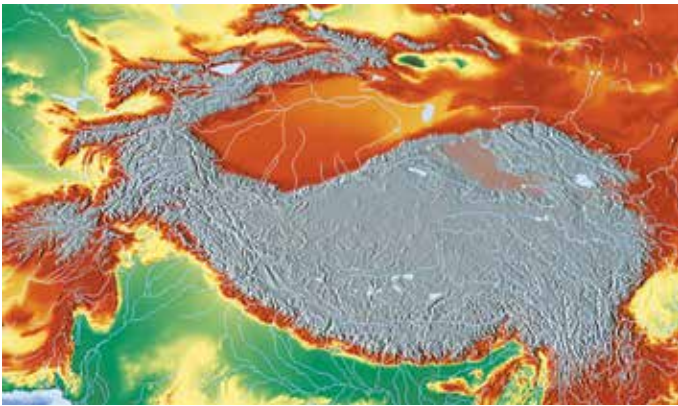
On 21 July 1983, temperatures at the **Russia's Vostok Research Station** in Antarctica reached

-89.2 °C. The site was chosen for research with the aim of drilling into ancient ice.



Largest Plateau

The most extensive high plateau is the **Tibetan Plateau**, which covers 1.85 million sq km of Central Asia. Its average altitude is 4,900 m. The Himalayan mountain range, to the south of the plateau, is home to 30 of the world's tallest mountains.



Greatest Vertical Drop

Mount Thor on Baffin Island in Nunavut, Canada, is a granite peak whose west face consists of a vertical drop of 1,250 m.



Fastest-rising Mountain

Nanga Parbat is growing taller at a rate of 7 mm (0.27 in) per year. The mountain is part of the Himalayan Plateau, which was formed when India began colliding with the Eurasian continental plate between 50 million and 30 million years ago.



Highest Free-standing Mountain

Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Africa, is 5,895 m (19,341 ft) above sea level. It is the fourth highest of the world's Seven Summits and the highest mountain in Africa.



The Largest Bay

The Bay of Bengal in the Indian Ocean covers an area of 2.17 million sq km. One quarter of the world's population of 7.2 billion live in the countries bordering it : Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Malaysia.



Longest Sea Cave

Matainaka Cave on New Zealand's South Island is 1,540 m (5,052 ft) long and is still forming through wave action from the sea. This length is more than three times that of its nearest rival, **Mercer Bay Cave** in New Zealand, which extends to 470 m (1,542 ft).



Largest Freshwater Lake

Lake Superior is shared by Canada and the USA, bordered by Ontario and Minnesota to the north and west and Wisconsin and Michigan to the south. The lake covers 82,100 sq km. **Lake Baikal** in Siberia, Russia, has the greatest volume for a freshwater lake, estimated at 23,000 sq km.



Longest Underground River

In March 2007, cave divers **Stephen Bogaerts** of the United Kingdom and **Robbie Schmittner** of Germany announced that they had discovered a 153 km long river beneath the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico. The river, which has many twists and turns, spans around 10 km of land.



Deepest River

In July 2008, scientists from the US Geological Survey and the American Museum of Natural History discovered that the **Congo River**, which spans 10 countries in Africa, has a maximum depth of at least 220 m (722 ft). The measurements were performed in the Lower Congo River using echo sounders, advanced GPS and acoustic doppler current profilers.



Largest Fish

The largest living fish is the rare plankton-feeding **whale shark**, which is found in the warmer areas of the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans. The largest scientifically recorded example was 12.65 m (41 ft 6 in) long. It was captured off Baba Island near Karachi, Pakistan, on 11 November 1949 and weighed an estimated 21 tonnes.



Largest Tiger

The male **Siberian Tiger** averages 3.15 m (10 ft 4 in) from nose to tail, stands 99–107 cm (3 ft 3 in–3 ft 6 in) to its shoulder and weighs around 265 kg.



Largest Monkey

The male **mandrill** of West Africa has head and body length of 61–76 cm (2 ft–2 ft 6 in) and a tail measuring 5.2–7.6 cm (2–3 in). The males average 25 kg but can weigh 54 kg.



The Largest Mammal to build a Nest

Male African Gorillas measure 1.7–1.8 m (5 ft 6 in–6 ft) and weigh 136–227 kg. They create a new ground nest from the surrounding vegetation every day. The nests are circular and typically measure 1 m (3 ft 3 in) in diameter. Some lighter members of

the troop build in trees and make a separate nest during the day for a nap.



Largest Rhinoceros

The **Southern White Rhinoceros** can grow to a length of 4.2 m (13 ft 9 in), with an uppermost shoulder height of 1.85 m (6 ft) and weight of 3.6 tonnes.



Largest Deer

A male **Alaskan Moose**, standing 2.34 m (7 ft 8 in) tall and weighing an estimated 816 kg, was shot in the Yukon Territory of Canada in September 1897. The smallest deer is the Northern Pudu, which grows to 35 cm (1 ft 1 in) tall at the shoulder and weighs up to 6 kg. It is found in Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.



Longest Hair for a Domestic Cattle Breed

The Domestic Cattle with the longest hair is the **Highland Cattle**. Originating in Scotland but subsequently exported worldwide, this famous hairy breed has an average hair length of 35 cm.



Longest Bills

The **Australian Pelican** has the longest beak which measures 34–47 cm. But the longest beak in relation to body length is that of the sword-billed hummingbird of the Andes from Venezuela to Bolivia. Its beak measures 10.2 cm, making it longer than its body without the tail.



Heaviest Venomous Snake

The Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake weighs 5.5–6.8 kg, with the biggest on record at 15 kg. Other contenders are the King Cobra, up to 9 kg and the Gaboon Viper, weighing 8.5 kg.



Most Venomous Spider

The Brazilian Wandering Spiders are highly venomous, particularly the Brazilian Huntsman, which has the most active neurotoxic venom of any living spider. Just 0.006 mg of its venom is sufficient to kill a mouse.



Tallest Dog

Zeus, a Great Dane, measured 111.8 cm tall on 4 October 2011. It is owned by Denise Doorlag and family of Otsego in Michigan, USA. Zeus is both the tallest male dog and the tallest dog ever. The tallest female dog is also a Great Dane: Morgan, owned by Dave and Cathy Payne of Melbourne in Ontario, Canada, which measures 98.15 cm to the shoulder on 9 January 2013.



Smallest Dog

Vanesa Semler of Dorado, Puerto Rico, owns a female Chihuahua called **Milly**, who measured 9.65 cm (3.8 in) tall on 21 February 2013. As a puppy, she was fed using an eyedropper and was small enough to fit on a teaspoon.



Longest Jump by a Cat

Flying Feline **Alley** catapulted himself to a record with a 1.82 m (6 ft) leap on 27 October 2013. Alley, a rescue cat owned by Samantha Martin (USA), is part of the Amazing Acro-Cats touring show.



Largest Water Lily

The **Giant Water Lily** has floating leaves measuring up to 3 m (10 ft) across and is held in place on an underwater stalk 7-8 m (23-26 ft) long. The leaves are supported by rib-like crossridges that are said to have inspired the metal girders of Crystal Palace in London, UK, built in 1851. It is native to freshwater lakes and bayous in the Amazon basin.



Largest Living Flower

Rafflesia gets its nickname 'corpse flower' because of its smell of rotting flesh. It measures up to 91 cm (3 ft) across and weighs up to 11 kg, with petals that are 1.9 cm thick. It is native to south-east Asia.



Society

Largest Samosa

On 22 June 2012, chefs and students at Bradford College in West Yorkshire, UK, cooked up a super-sized Indian pastry weighing 110.8 kg and measuring 1.35 m (4ft 5 in) long, 85 cm (2 ft 9 in) wide and 29 cm (11 in) high.



Most Solves in Rubik's Cube Competitions in a Single Year

In 2012, **Sebastien Auroux** of Germany solved 2,033 Rubik's Cubes in official World Cube Association competitions. This equates to 5.5 competitive solves

every day and doesn't include any cubes solved outside of formal events.



Most Peaceful Country

As of 2013, **Iceland** was No. 1 on the Global Peace Index of 2013. **Denmark** was second and **New Zealand** was ranked third.



Least Peaceful Country

According to the Global Peace Index of 2013, **Afghanistan** was rated the least peaceful country. **Somalia** was second-least peaceful and **Syria** was third-least peaceful country in the world.



Most Polluted Major City

A 2011 report by the WHO measured air pollution and found **Ahwaz** in Iran was the most polluted major city in the world.



Largest Roller-coaster Loop

Full Throttle at Six Flags Magic Mountain in Valencia, California, USA, has the largest loop, at 38.75 m (127 ft 1 in).



Sports

Most Powerful Sports Star (Female)

The highest-ranked female athlete in Forbes' 'Most Powerful' list is tennis player **Serena Williams** of the USA. The list measures fame by taking into account celebrity earnings, exposure in print and on television, the strength of a star's internet presence, public opinion and marketability. On 27 October 2013, she became the oldest female tennis player to be ranked **World No. 1** at the age of 32 years 31 days.



Most Runs Scored by a Player in a T20 International

The highest individual score in Twenty20 International is 156 runs, by Australian Aaron Finch against England at the Ageas Bowl in Southampton, UK, on 29 August 2013. Opening batsman Finch hit 14 sixes in his 63-ball innings to guide Australia to a formidable 248 for 6.



Most Test Matches Played

Indian Batsman Sachin Tendulkar is known by his fans as the 'God of Cricket'. He retired on 16 November 2013 after a 24 years career, but not before playing a record 200th Test match, against the West Indies at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium. Tendulkar has 20 Guinness World Records titles to his credit, the highlights of which are listed in the tables above.



Technology

Largest Videogame Tournament

Ralph Straus, Head of Brand Management at FIFA, broke yet another record for arranging the largest gaming contest. The most recent FIFA Interactive World Cup – held from 1 October 2012 to 8 May 2013 – nearly doubled its 2011/12 participation record of 1,306,821 with an incredible 2,541,519 gamers.



Fastest Trip to the International Space Station

The fastest time to reach the International Space Station (ISS) from launch to dock is 5 hours 39 minutes. It was achieved on 29 May 2013 by the crew of **Expedition 36** on board the Soyuz TMA-09M.



Largest Binocular Telescope

The Largest Binocular Telescope in Arizona, USA, comprises two identical telescopes, each with an 8.4 metres wide primary mirror.



Heaviest man-made Object to re-enter the Atmosphere

The Russian Space Station *Mir* came out of orbit during a successful controlled re-entry of Earth's atmosphere on 23 March 2001. After 15 years in space, the 130-tonne laboratory broke into pieces that splashed down in the ocean east of New Zealand. The largest space station is now the **International Space Station**.



First Person Hit by Space Junk

The first and only person to be hit by a man-made object from orbit is **Lottie Williams** of the USA. On 22 January 1997, she was hit on the shoulder by a piece of blackened metal about 15 cm (6in) long. She was unhurt and NASA's tests showed that it was probably a piece from a *Delta II* rocket.



First "Earthrise" viewed by Humans

Apollo 8 was a manned spacecraft that orbited the Moon on 23-24 December 1968. On Christmas Eve, crew members Frank Borman, Bill Anders and Jim Lovell captured an iconic image of Earth that became known as "Earthrise" and is credited with inspiring increased environmental awareness.



Largest Apartment Ship

MS The World was launched in 2002. It incorporates 165 residential units comprising 106 apartments, 19 studio apartments and 40 studios. Though it continuously circumnavigates the world, its residents are able to conduct their professional lives while living and relaxing on board. The average stay lasts for around three to four months of the year and average occupancy is 150 residents (with an average age of 65).



Fastest Computer

The Supercomputer '**Tianhe-2**' is the fastest computer in the world. It is developed by China's National University of Defense Technology. The list of the most powerful supercomputers was announced on 17 June 2013 during the opening session of International Supercomputing Conference.



First Bionic Hand with Real-time Sensory Feedback

Dennis Aabo Sorensen of Denmark was the test subject for a prosthetic hand that was wired into

his nerves. According to a report issued on 5 February 2014 by **Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne** in Switzerland, he was able to tell how hard he was grasping and to distinguish between objects, including their shape and softness.



First 3D-printed Titanium Alloy Bicycle Frame

Empire Cycles of the United Kingdom designed a bike frame that was constructed by UK manufacturing firm Renishaw from titanium. The 3D laser melting process ensured that there was less waste, and made it easier to create a more organic form. The MX-6 Evo prototype frame of 2014 weighs 1.4 kg, making it 33 per cent lighter than conventional frames.

