

## 8.9: Saturn's Satellites

Saturn has 62 known moons (as of August 2014); a large number like Jupiter. Titan is the second largest moon in the solar system (to Jupiter's Ganymede) and is also larger than the planet Mercury. Christian Huygens discovered Titan in 1655. Most of Saturn's moons are very small; many are smaller than 50 kilometers (30 miles) across. As noted when discussing Saturn's ring, there are several Shepard moons and Gap moons.

### Saturn Satellites of Distinction

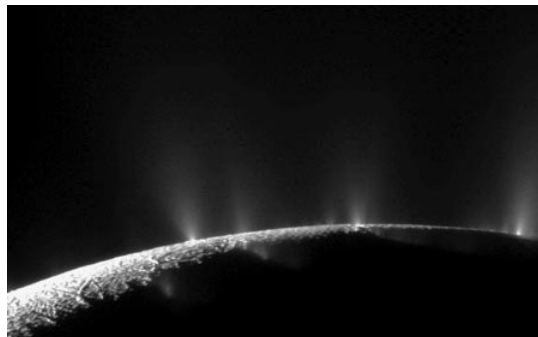
#### Brief Description

##### Enceladus

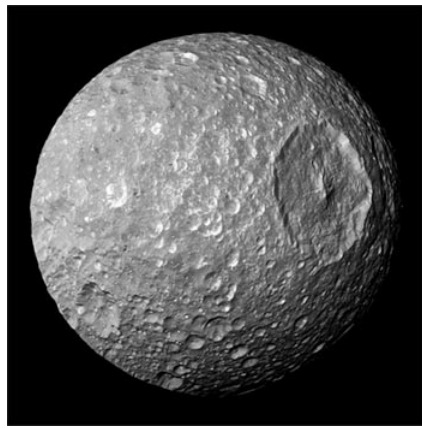
- Mimas
  - Prometheus
    - Titan
      - Thick atmosphere of mostly Nitrogen, liquid methane on the surface



Enceladus via NASA Cassini SpacecraftPublic Domain | Image courtesy of NASA.



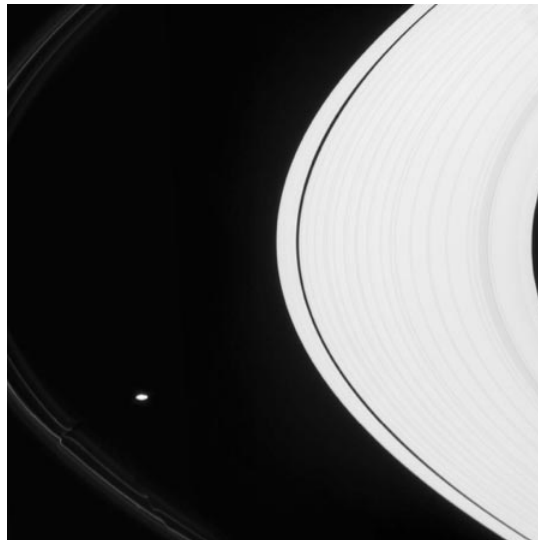
Geysers erupting from Enceladus, there are 101 geysers in what is called the Enceladus Geyser Basin via NASA Cassini SpacecraftPublic Domain | Image courtesy of NASA.



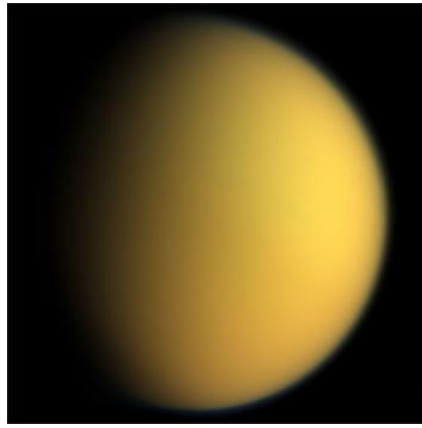
Mimas via NASA Cassini SpacecraftPublic Domain | Image courtesy of NASA.



Prometheus via NASA Cassini SpacecraftPublic Domain | Image courtesy of NASA.



F ring (left), Prometheus (center oblong), and Saturn's rings to the right – note the F ring twists via NASA Cassini SpacecraftPublic Domain | Image courtesy of NASA.



Titan and its thick atmosphere via NASA Cassini SpacecraftPublic Domain | Image courtesy of NASA.



Surface of Titan via NASA Huygens SpacecraftPublic Domain | Image courtesy of NASA.

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