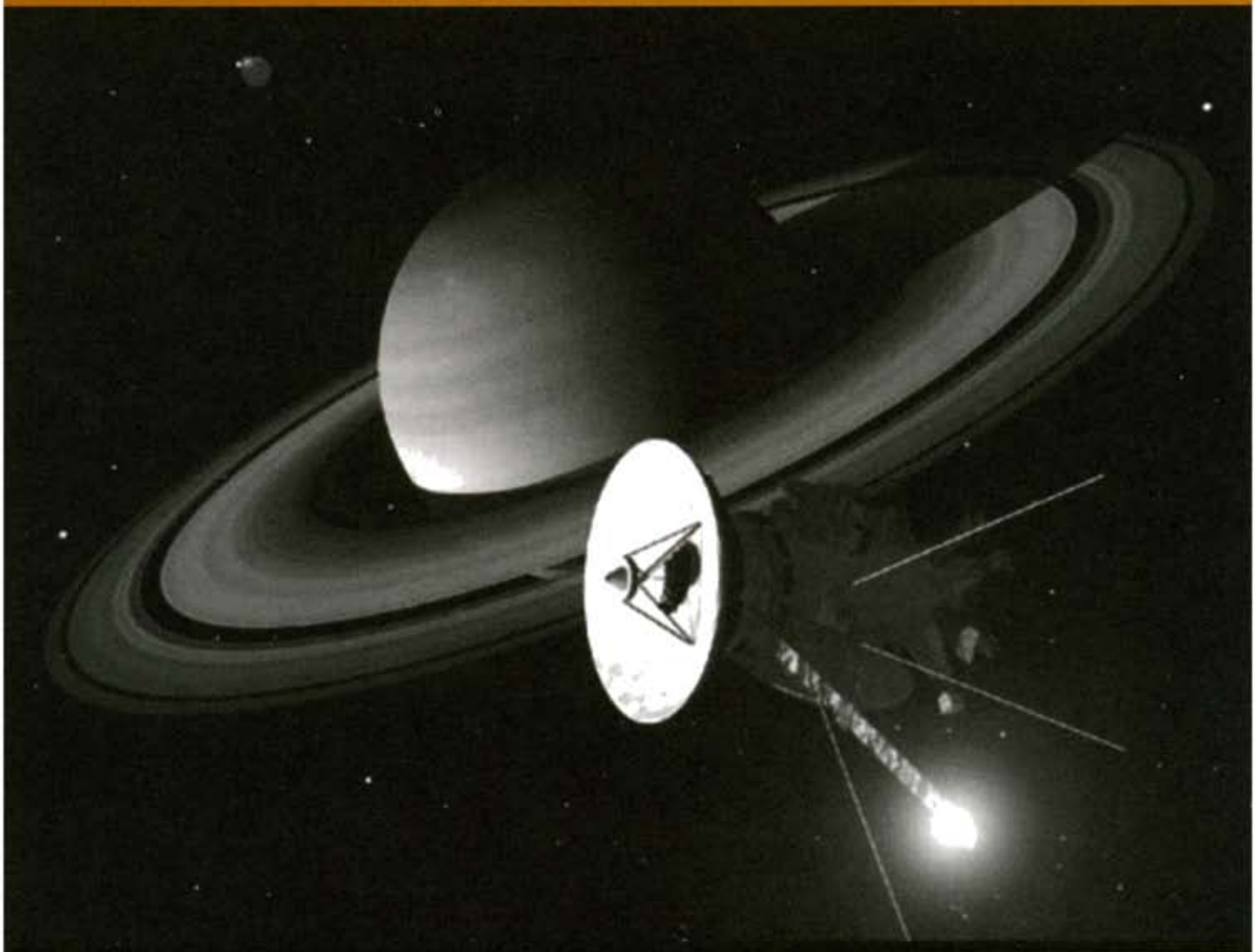


PRIMARILY *for* U.S.*

GRADES 2-3

* Understanding Science

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This summer the Cassini spacecraft arrives at Saturn for a close-up look at the ringed giant.

What is the Cassini spacecraft?

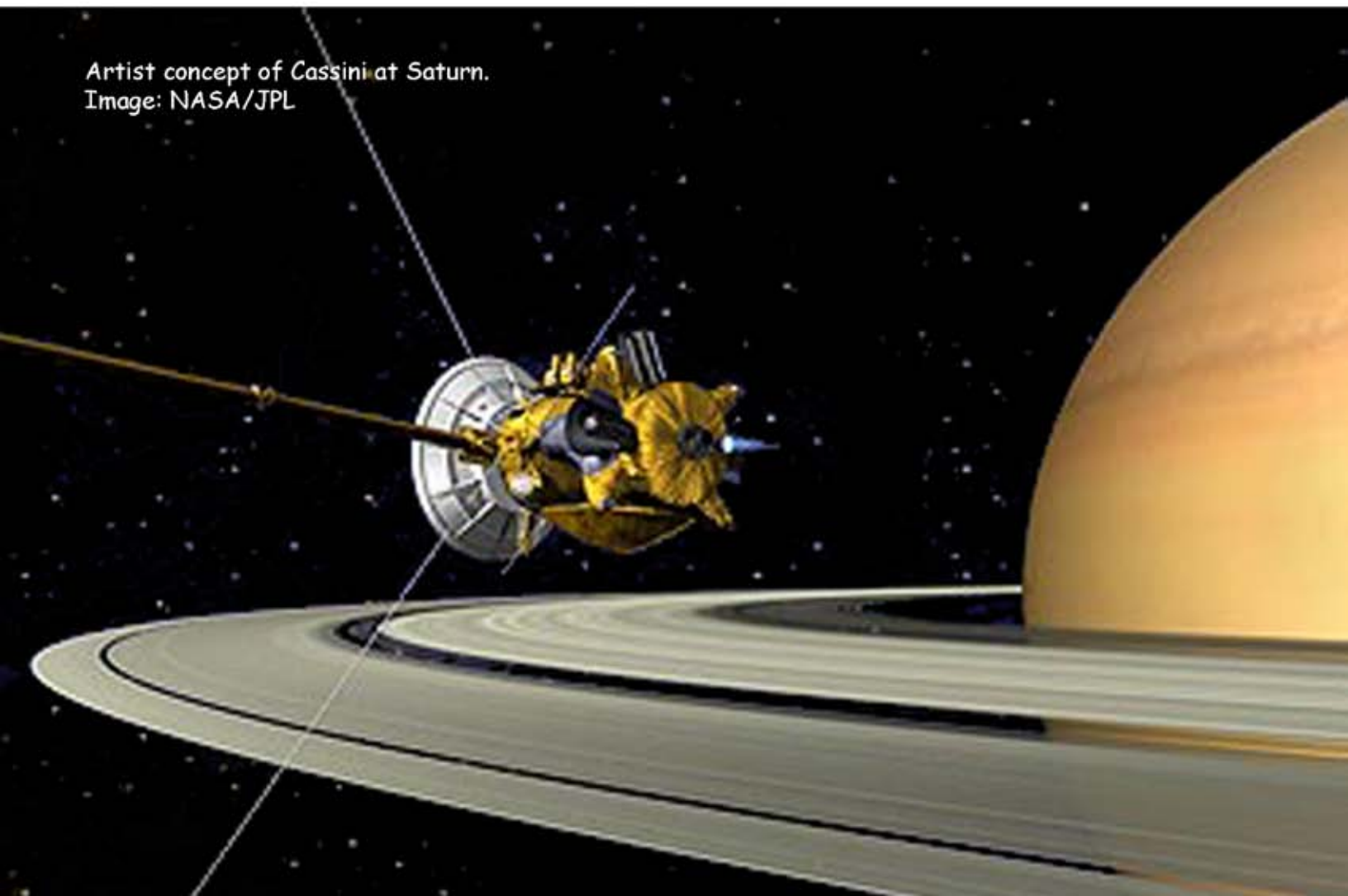
The Cassini spacecraft launched from Earth in 1997 to learn more about Saturn. It has taken seven years for Cassini to get to Saturn. Why? Saturn is almost a billion miles away!

To get to Saturn, Cassini didn't travel in a straight line. The travel path for Cassini looped around the Sun to fly twice past Venus, once past Earth and even once past Jupiter. Each flyby gave the spacecraft a boost in speed.

How does this work? Imagine roller-skating past a flagpole. If you grab the flagpole on the way by and swing around in a circle, you can let go of the pole and go whizzing off faster.

Scientists did the same thing with Cassini. Cassini doesn't wear roller skates, of course!

Artist concept of Cassini at Saturn.
Image: NASA/JPL

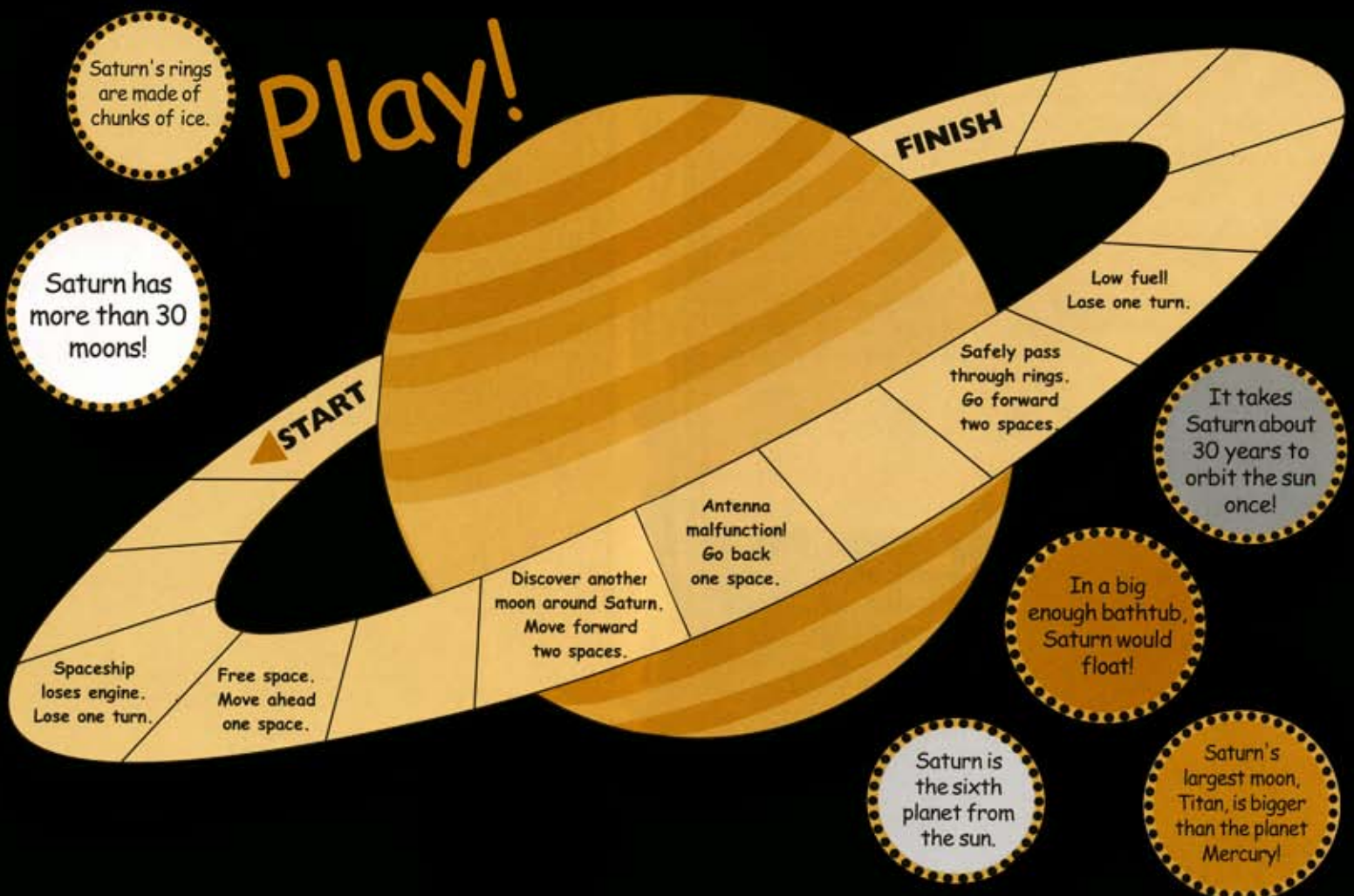


Play 'RING AROUND the PLANET'!

You and a friend can race around Saturn's rings!
You need two pennies (for markers) and one die (from a pair of dice).



- ▶1. Each player chooses a penny. One penny will be heads up, the other will be tails up. Place both pennies on the START space.
- ▶2. Each player rolls the die. The player who rolls the lower number goes first. Roll again and move that number of spaces.
- ▶3. Take turns rolling the die and moving your penny around the rings. If you land on a space with directions, follow them.
- ▶4. First player to reach FINISH wins.



Travel successfully around Saturn!



Find Saturn in this picture of the night sky.
Find three stars in a row (A) - the belt of Orion.
Find the line drawn from the right hand belt star
past the bright shoulder star (B).
The dot at the end of the line is Saturn (C).

Find Saturn in the real night sky this winter.
Face south. Find Orion's belt (three stars in a row).
Follow an imaginary line from the right belt star past
the bright star in Orion's shoulder and look for the
brightest object up there. The brightest object is Saturn!



Saturn Search

Find the Saturn words in the puzzle below.

D R E H P E H S T Q R M P D D
C J O U P G S A S I C I V L V
S A T U R N C T E O T M G K M
P R O M E T H E U S I A D W T
A G P G U R Q L D U N S N E B
M B Y A I V H L V L I H L I D
H U F N Q T U I P F S E A T T
H T G E U A L T L V S I S C X
C S X P L F L E I C A S J E U
Q B B I X A N N O A C P W Z V
F C D G S O D P A T N A I G P
M Z N J K G E U Y P N U Z X L
Z P A N D O R A S C E N F P C
M F E U M M I R X L R F T M S
Z G G H X S S U D A L E C N E

CASSINI

SATURN

GIANT

SIXTH

RINGS

TELESCOPE

SATELLITE

TITAN



SPLIT SATURN

How many words can you make from
the word SATURN?

One is already written for you.

sat

Saturn Snickers

Q. Why wouldn't you want to give Saturn a bath?

A. Because it would leave a ring in the tub!

Q. How many balls of string would it take to reach Saturn?

A. One, if it were big enough!



You can look through Fernbank's telescopes
on clear Thursday and Friday evenings
from 8:00 to 10:30 PM.
It's free!