

# Introduction to Astrobiology

The background is a deep blue space scene. It features a bright, glowing light source in the center, creating a horizontal lens flare. Numerous stars of varying sizes and colors are scattered across the field. In the bottom left corner, a dark, curved shape represents the edge of a planet or moon. The overall aesthetic is futuristic and scientific.

Understanding Life

1. Giant cloud of gas and dust in interstellar space.

2. Clumps begin to form within the cloud.

3. Dense cores, precursors to stars, form within clumps.

4. Cores condense into young stars surrounded by dusty disks.

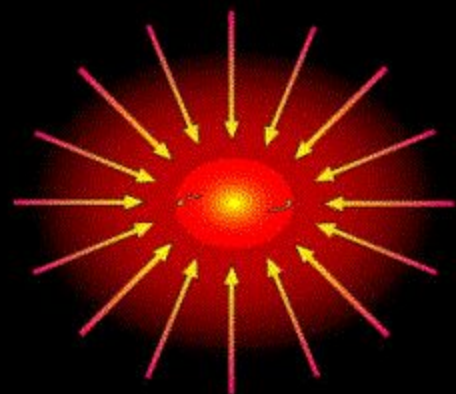
5. Planets form from the disks, and new solar system is born.



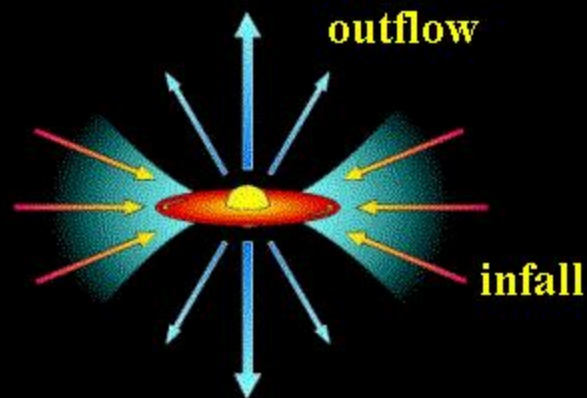


**FIRST EXOPLANET DISCOVERED IN 1992**

**3800 PLANETS IN 2800 SYSTEMS UNTIL NOW**



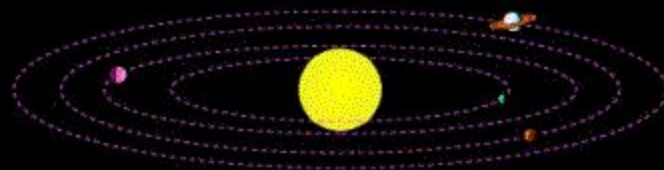
**Cloud collapse**



**Rotating disk**



**Planet formation**



**Mature solar system**

“Frost line”

Hydrogen-helium  
gas nebula

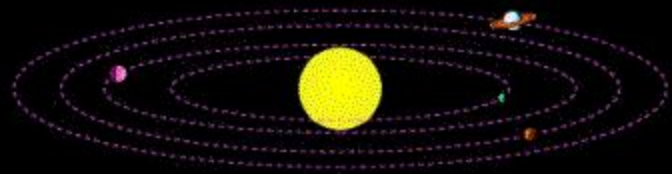
Protosun

Accreting rocky  
planetesimals

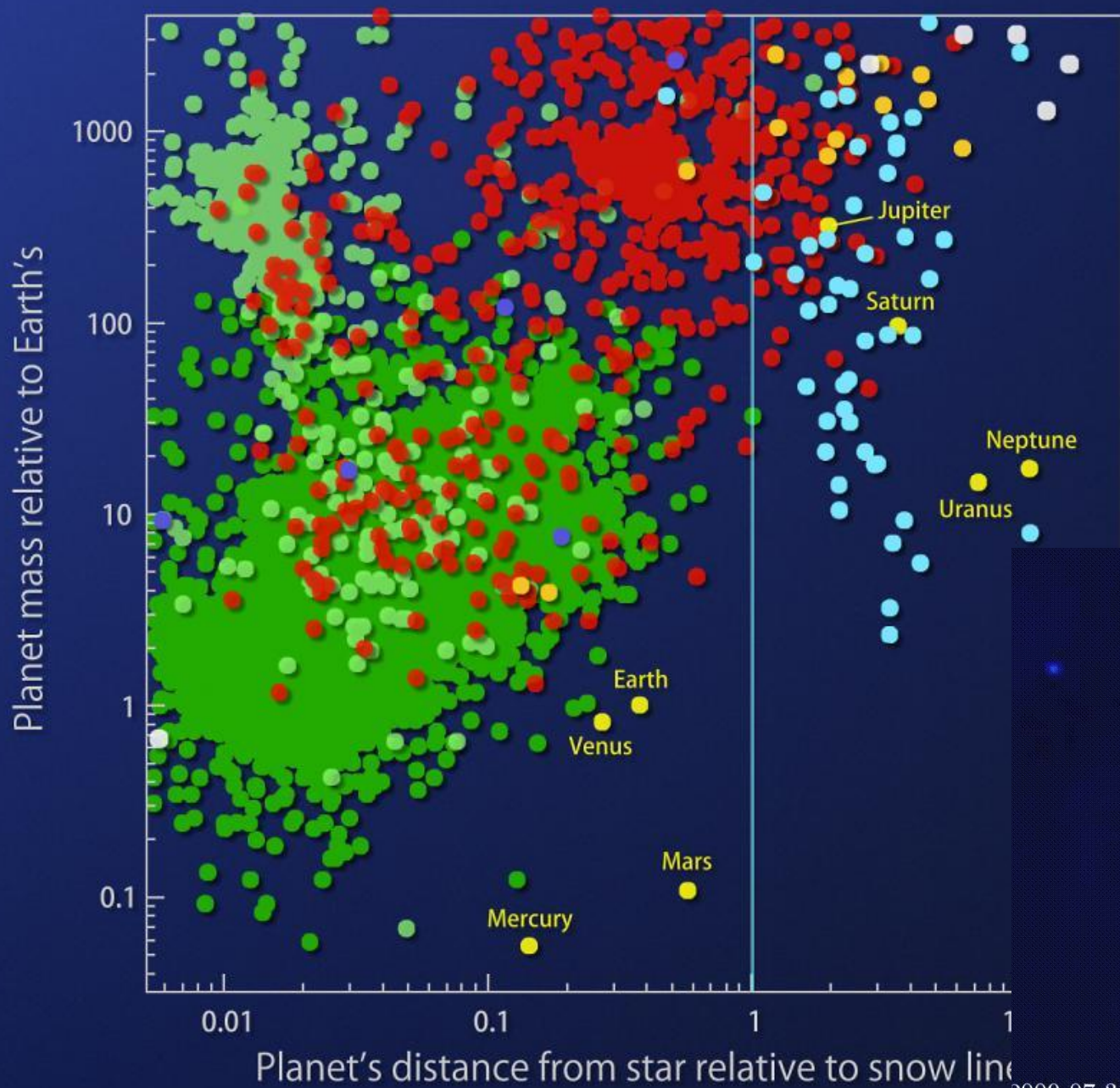
Accreting rock-ice  
planetesimals








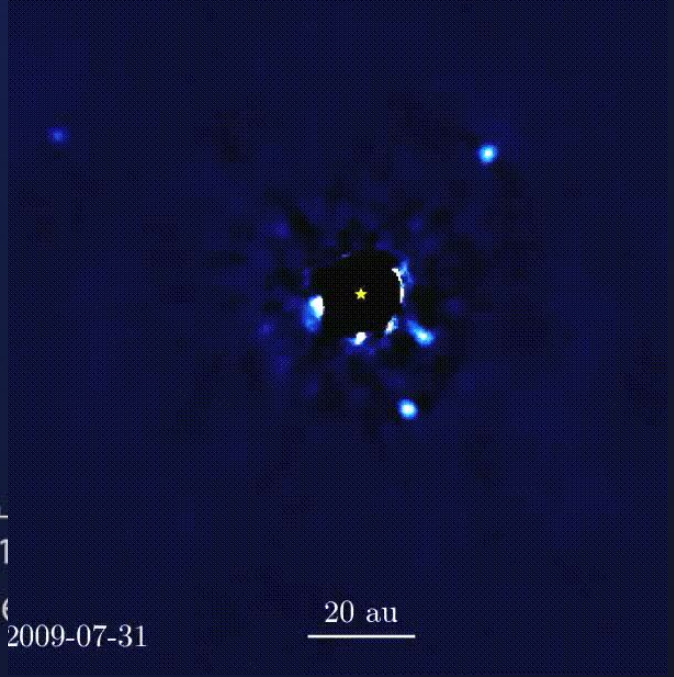
**Planet formation**

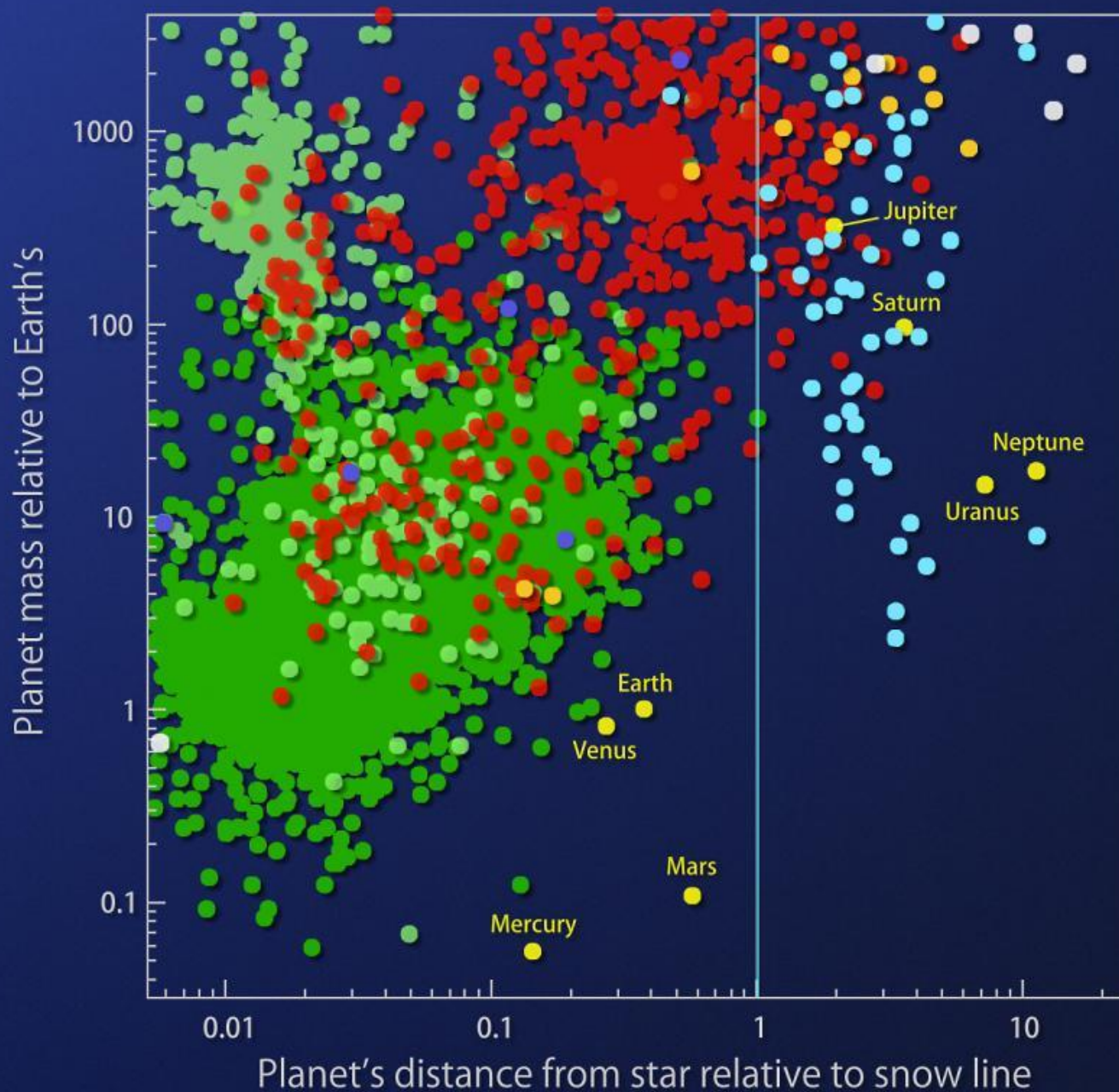


**Mature solar system**



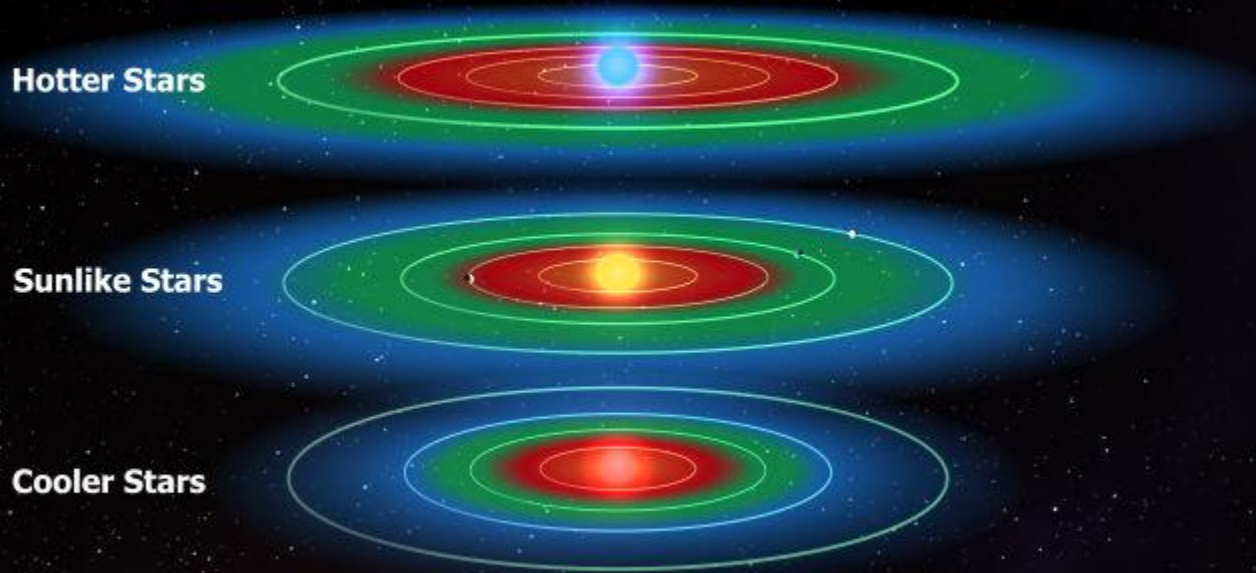
-  Microlensing planets
-  Kepler candidates
-  Transiting planets with measured masses
-  Radial velocity planets
- 





-  Microlensing planets
-  Kepler candidates
-  Transiting planets with measured masses
-  Radial velocity planets
-  Pulsar timing planets
-  Planets found through transit timing variations
-  Directly imaged planets
-  Solar system planets

# HABITABILITY ZONE



$$E_{\text{abs}} = \frac{(1 - A)L_{\odot}}{4\pi a^2} (\pi R_p^2)$$

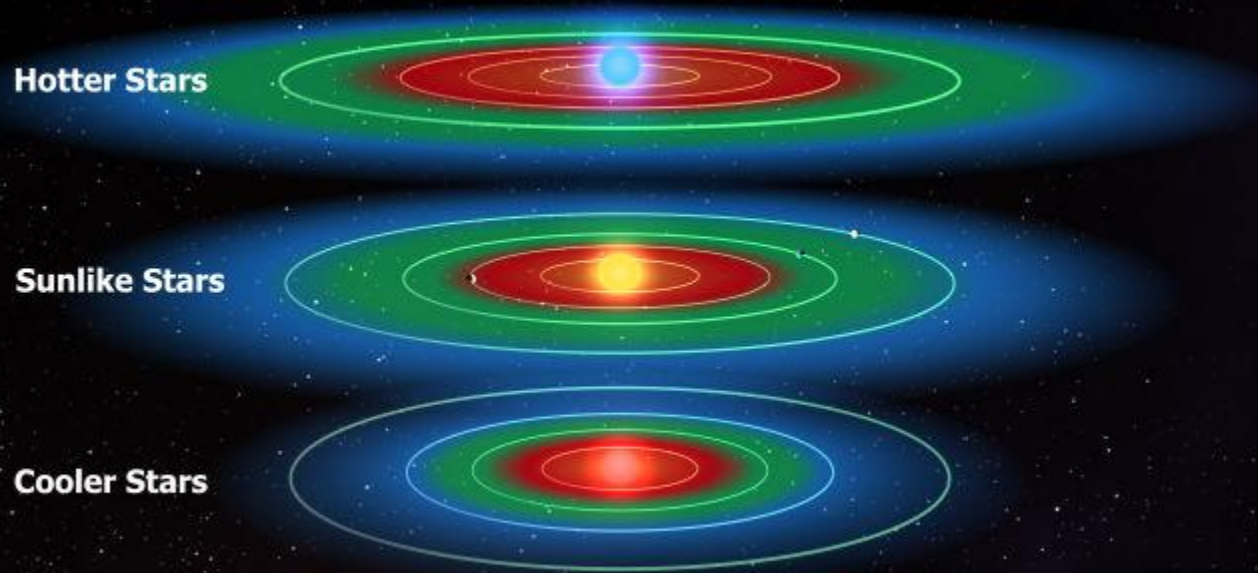
$$E_{\text{em}} = 4\pi R_p^2 \sigma T_p^4$$

$$a = \left[ \frac{(1 - A)L_*}{16\pi\sigma T_p^4} \right]^{1/2}$$

$$0.87 < \frac{a}{[A.U.]} < 0.47$$



# HABITABILITY ZONE



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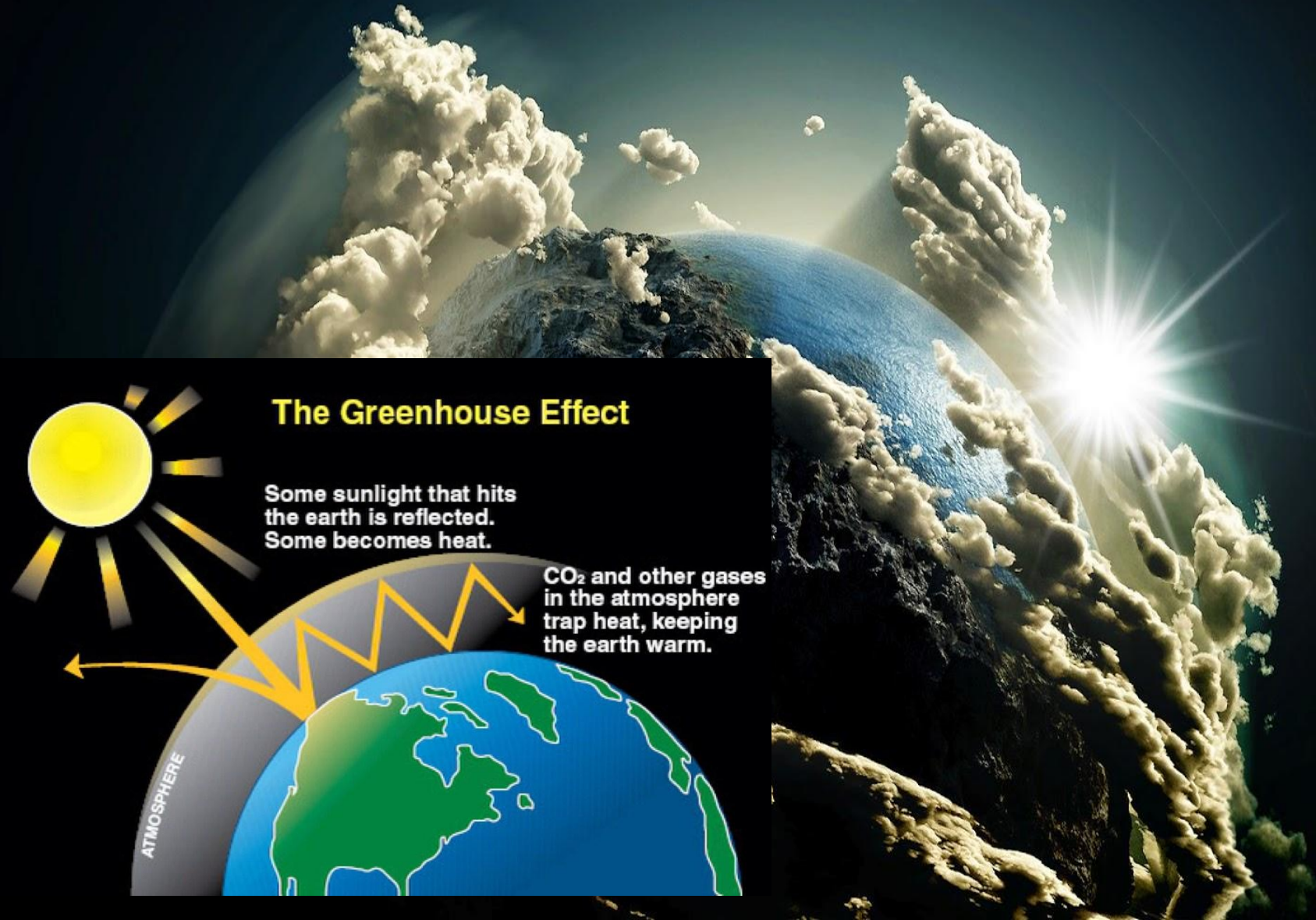
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$$0.87 < \frac{a}{[A.U.]} < 0.47 \quad ??$$



The atmosphere significantly changes the planets temperature



### The Greenhouse Effect

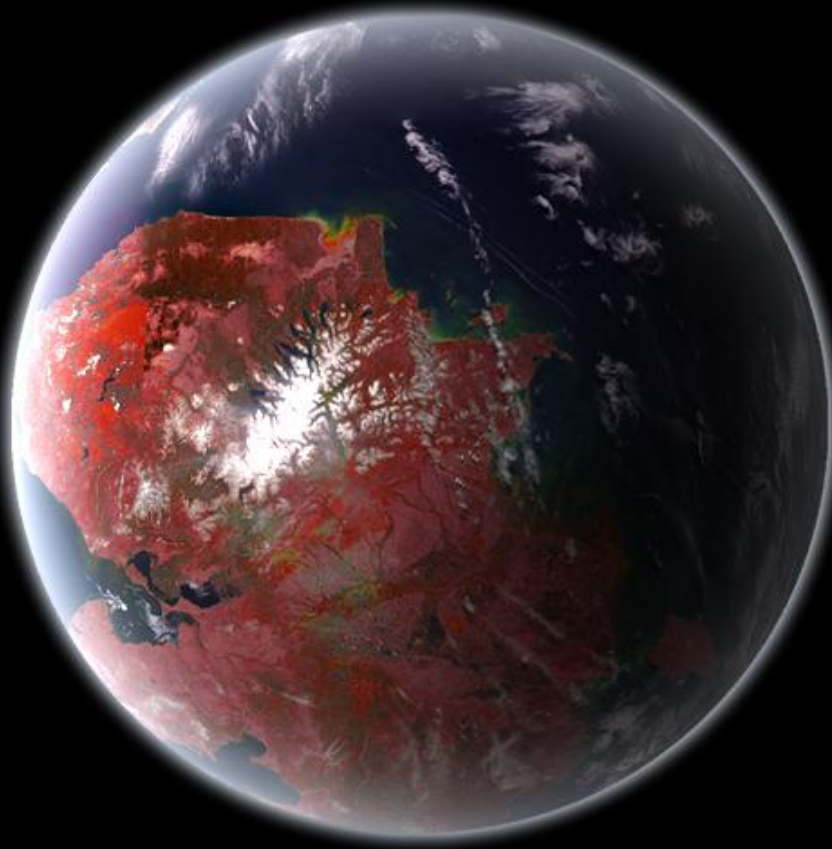
Some sunlight that hits the earth is reflected. Some becomes heat.

CO<sub>2</sub> and other gases in the atmosphere trap heat, keeping the earth warm.

ATMOSPHERE



# KEPLER-442B



## Physical characteristics

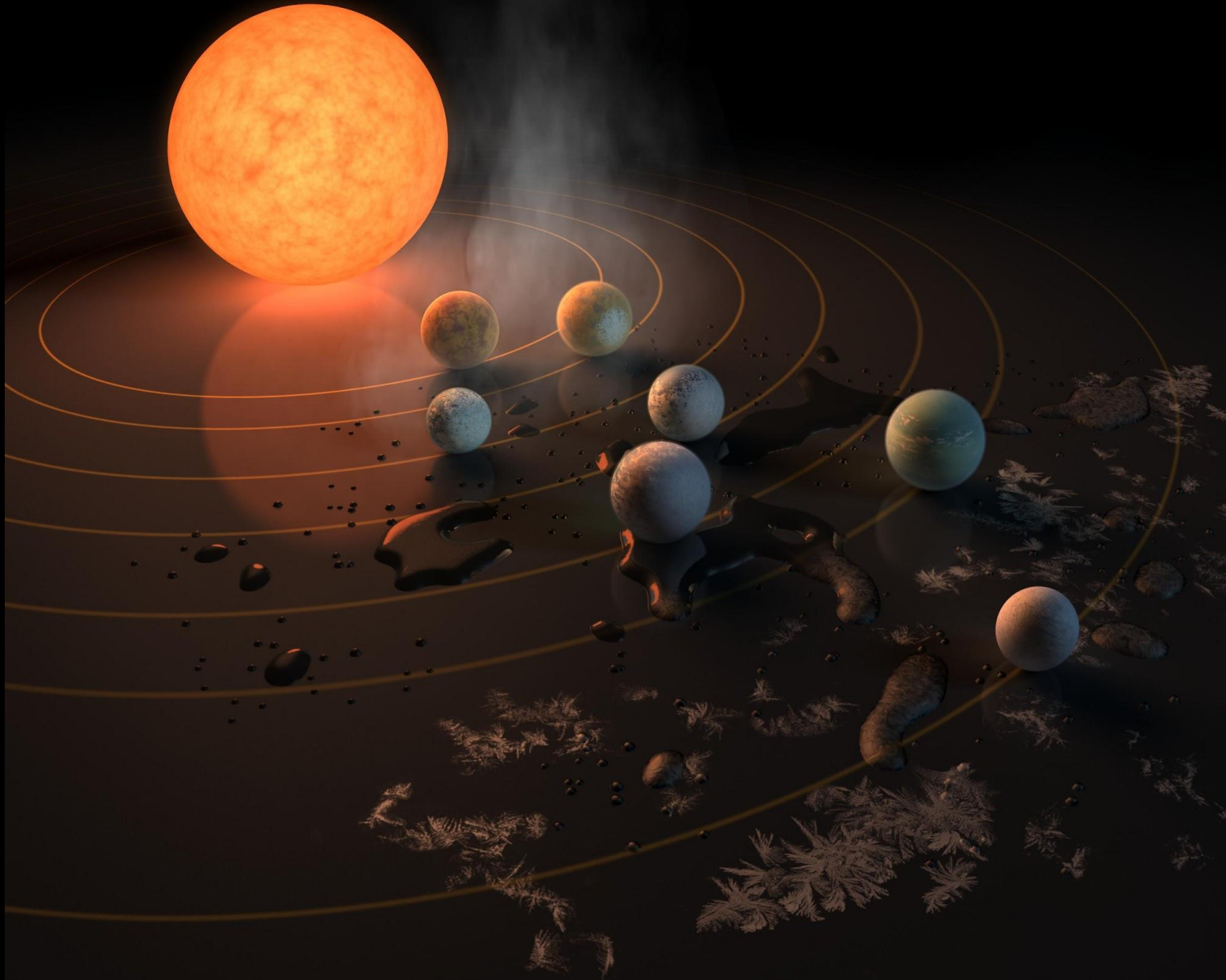
$M = 2.3 M_{\oplus}$   
 $R = 1.34 R_{\oplus}$   
Flux =  $0.7 F_{\oplus}$   
 $T = -40^{\circ}\text{C}$   
 $a = 0.4 \text{ AU}$   
orbital period = 112 d



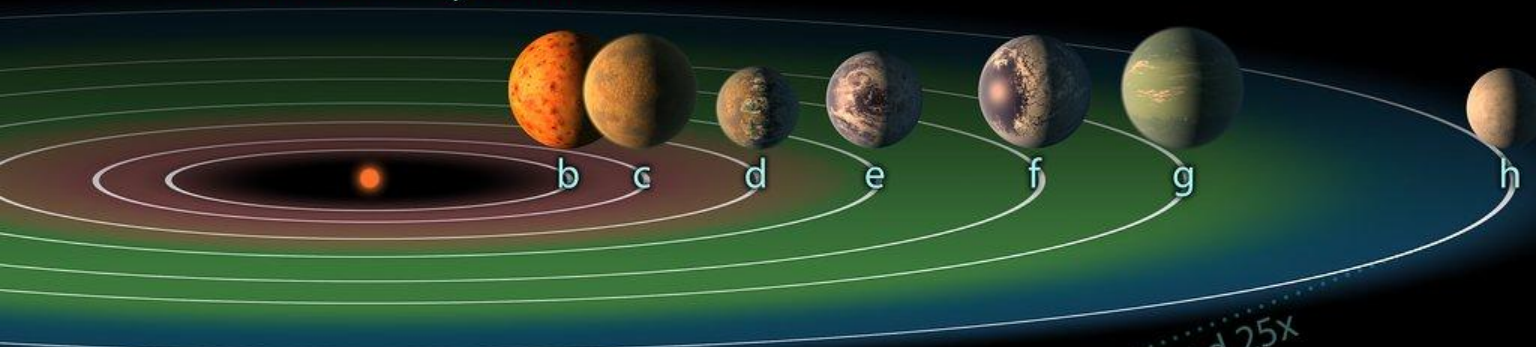
## Parent Star

$M = 0.6 M_{\odot}$   
 $R = 0.6 R_{\odot}$   
 $T = 4400 \text{ K}$

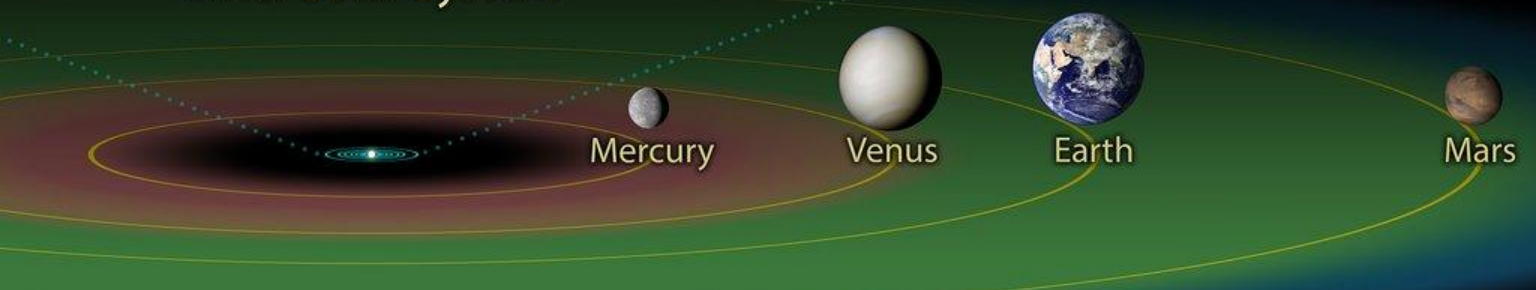
TRAPPIST-1 system has three planet in the habitable zone



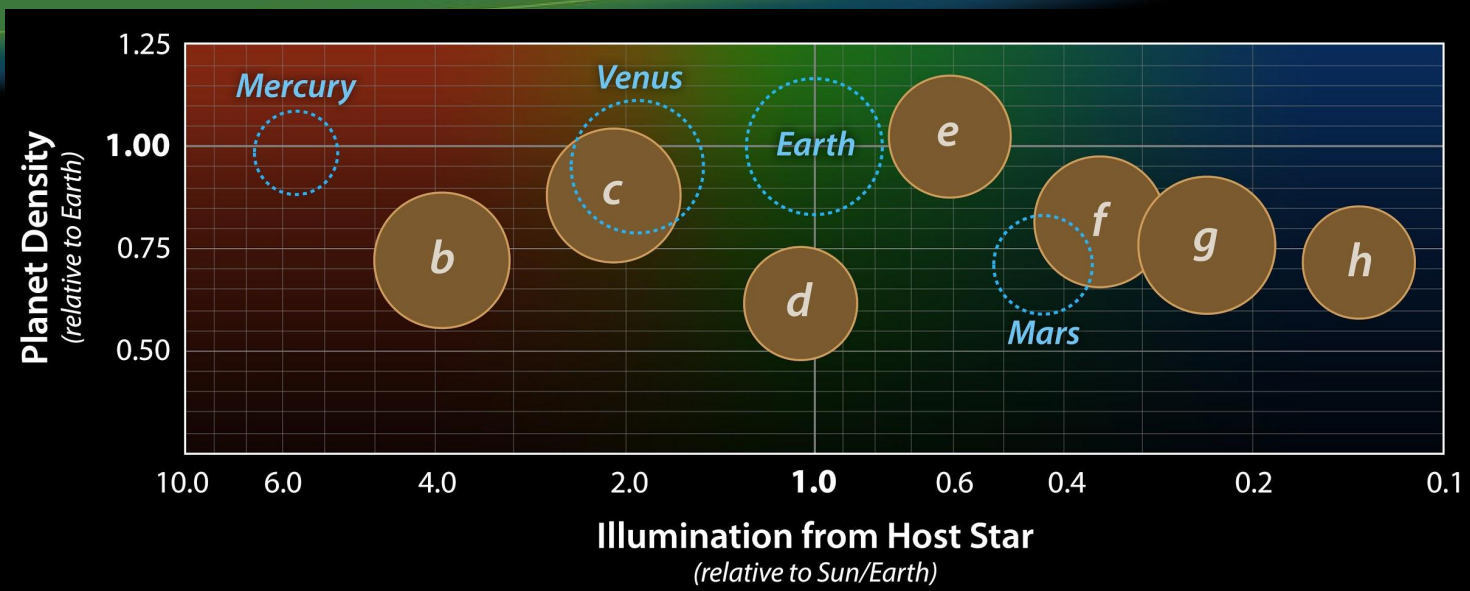
# TRAPPIST-1 System



# Inner Solar System



Enlarged 25x



**TRAPPIST-1 System**



**Orbital Period**  
*days*

**Distance to Star**  
*Astronomical Units (AU)*

**Planet Radius**  
*relative to Earth*

**Planet Mass**  
*relative to Earth*

	<b>b</b>	<b>c</b>	<b>d</b>	<b>e</b>	<b>f</b>	<b>g</b>	<b>h</b>
<b>Orbital Period</b> <i>days</i>	1.51 days	2.42 days	4.05 days	6.10 days	9.21 days	12.35 days	~20 days
<b>Distance to Star</b> <i>Astronomical Units (AU)</i>	0.011 AU	0.015 AU	0.021 AU	0.028 AU	0.037 AU	0.045 AU	~0.06 AU
<b>Planet Radius</b> <i>relative to Earth</i>	1.09 $R_{earth}$	1.06 $R_{earth}$	0.77 $R_{earth}$	0.92 $R_{earth}$	1.04 $R_{earth}$	1.13 $R_{earth}$	0.76 $R_{earth}$
<b>Planet Mass</b> <i>relative to Earth</i>	0.85 $M_{earth}$	1.38 $M_{earth}$	0.41 $M_{earth}$	0.62 $M_{earth}$	0.68 $M_{earth}$	1.34 $M_{earth}$	—

**Solar System**  
*Rocky Planets*



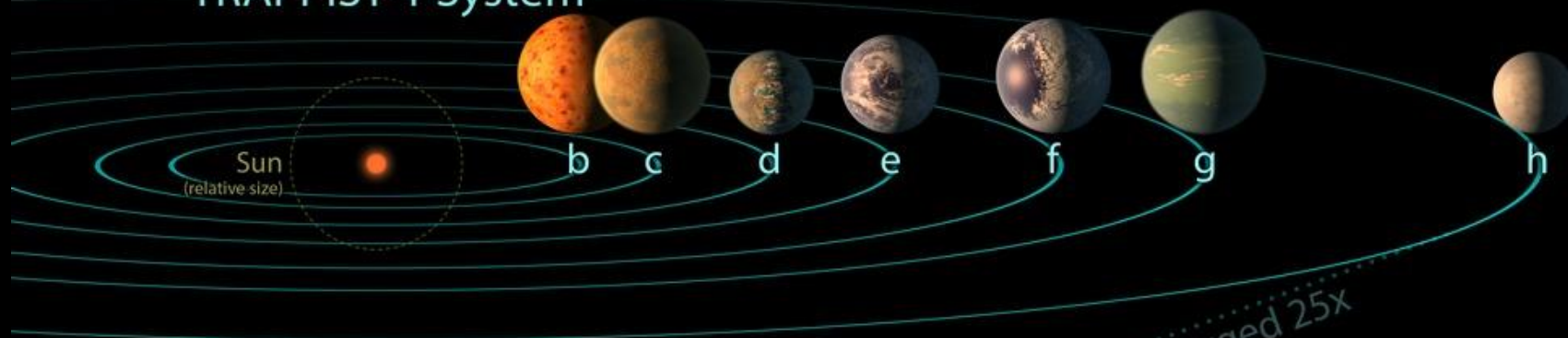
	<b>Mercury</b>	<b>Venus</b>	<b>Earth</b>	<b>Mars</b>
<b>Orbital Period</b> <i>days</i>	87.97 days	224.70 days	365.26 days	686.98 days
<b>Distance to Star</b> <i>Astronomical Units (AU)</i>	0.387 AU	0.723 AU	1.000 AU	1.524 AU
<b>Planet Radius</b> <i>relative to Earth</i>	0.38 $R_{earth}$	0.95 $R_{earth}$	1.00 $R_{earth}$	0.53 $R_{earth}$
<b>Planet Mass</b> <i>relative to Earth</i>	0.06 $M_{earth}$	0.82 $M_{earth}$	1.00 $M_{earth}$	0.11 $M_{earth}$



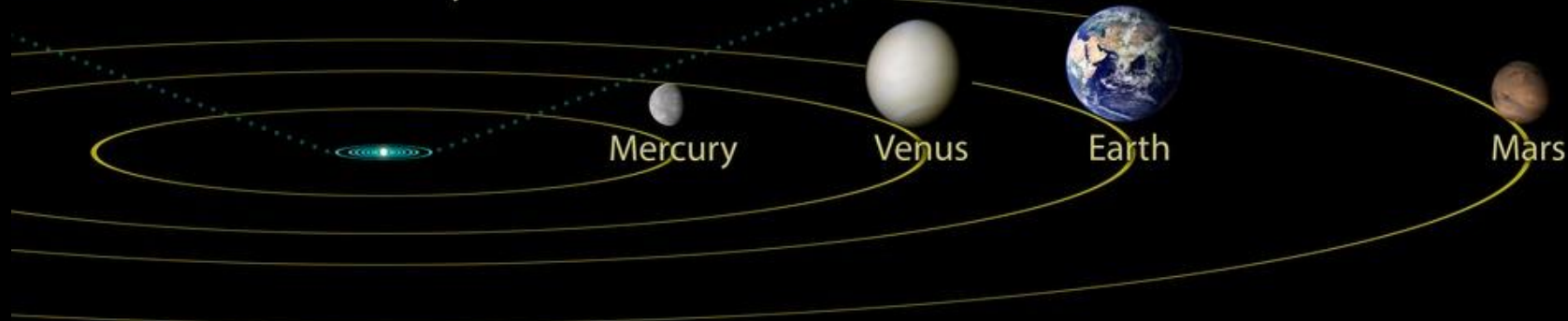
## Jupiter & Major Moons



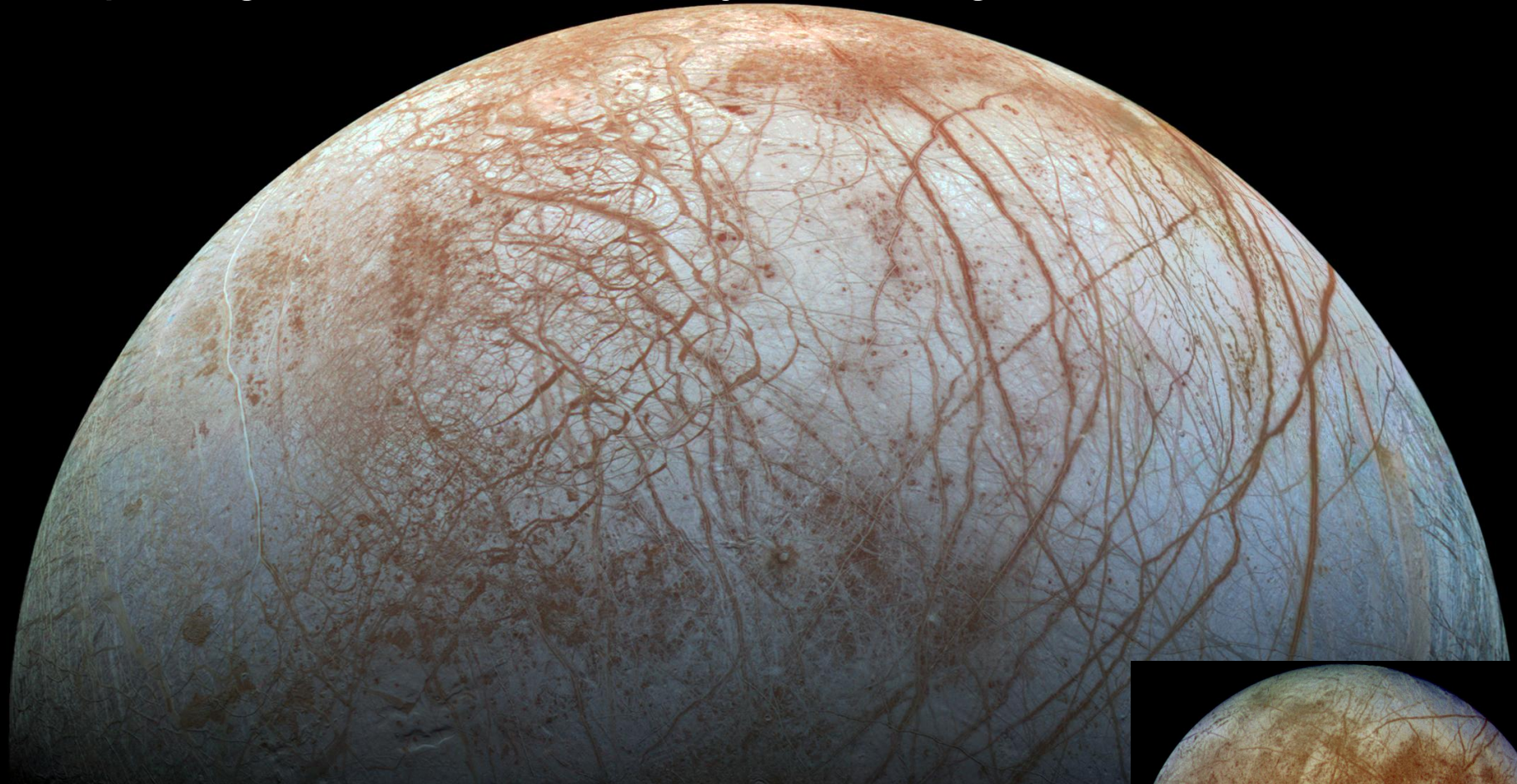
## TRAPPIST-1 System



## Inner Solar System



# Europa might be the closest object hosting life

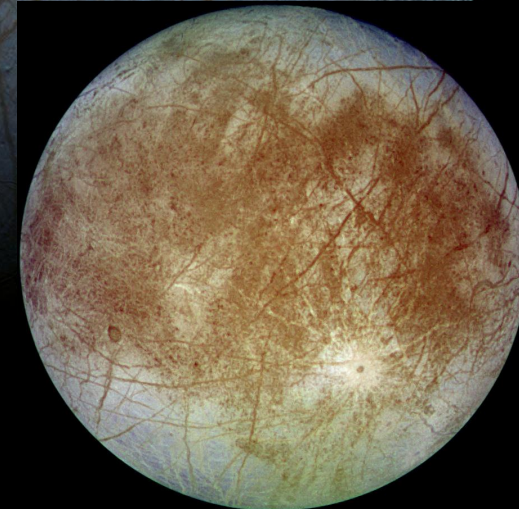


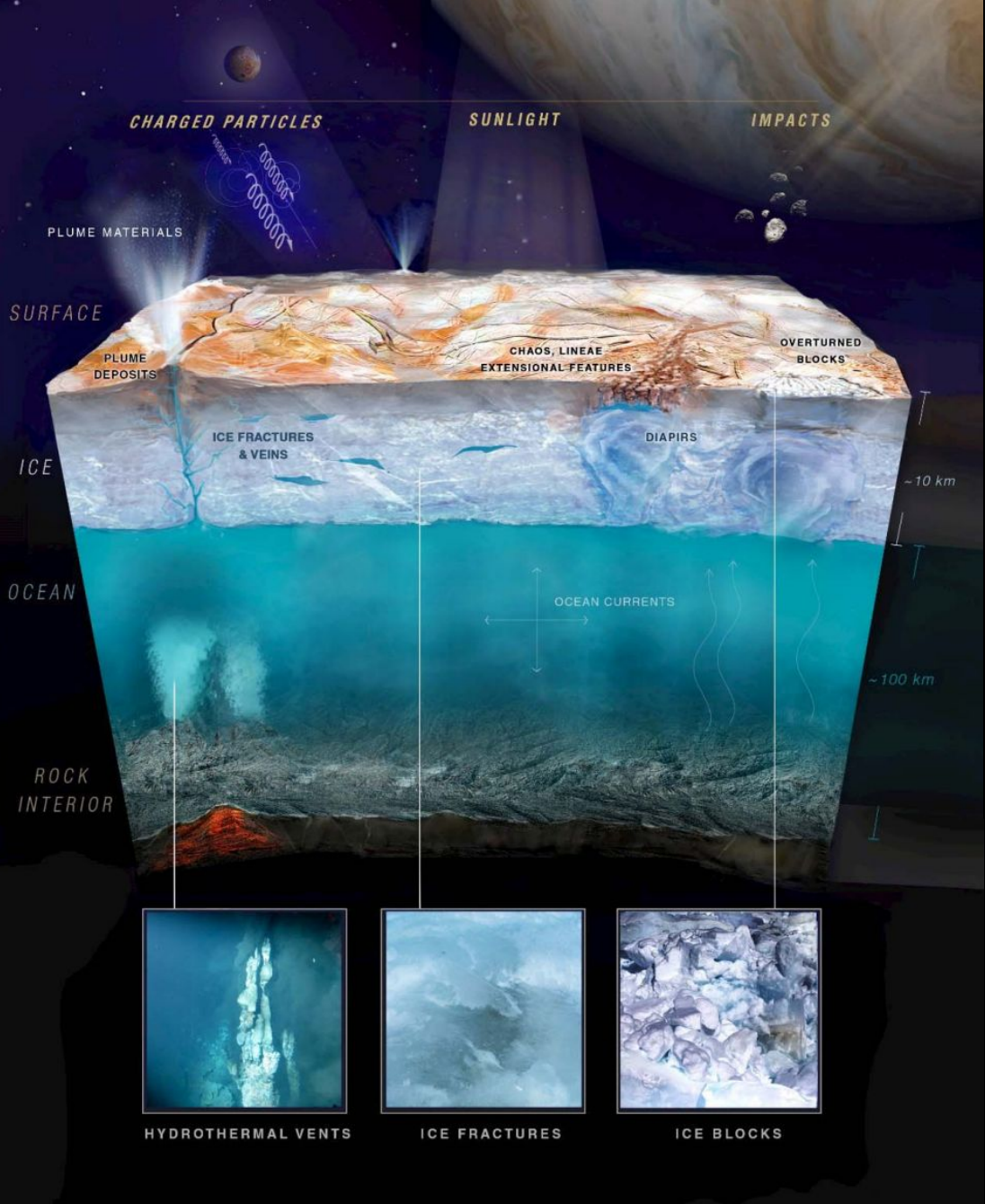
## Physical characteristics

$$M = 0.008 M_{\oplus}$$

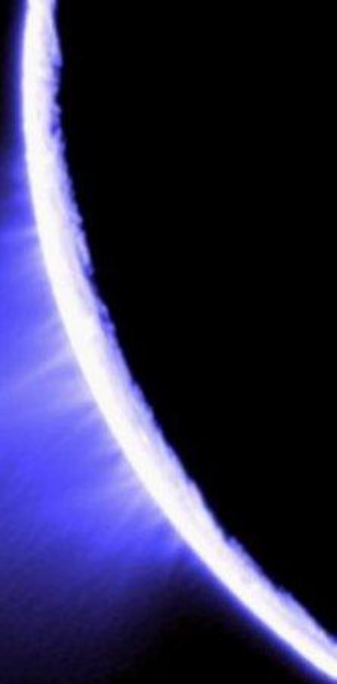
$$R = 0.25 R_{\oplus}$$

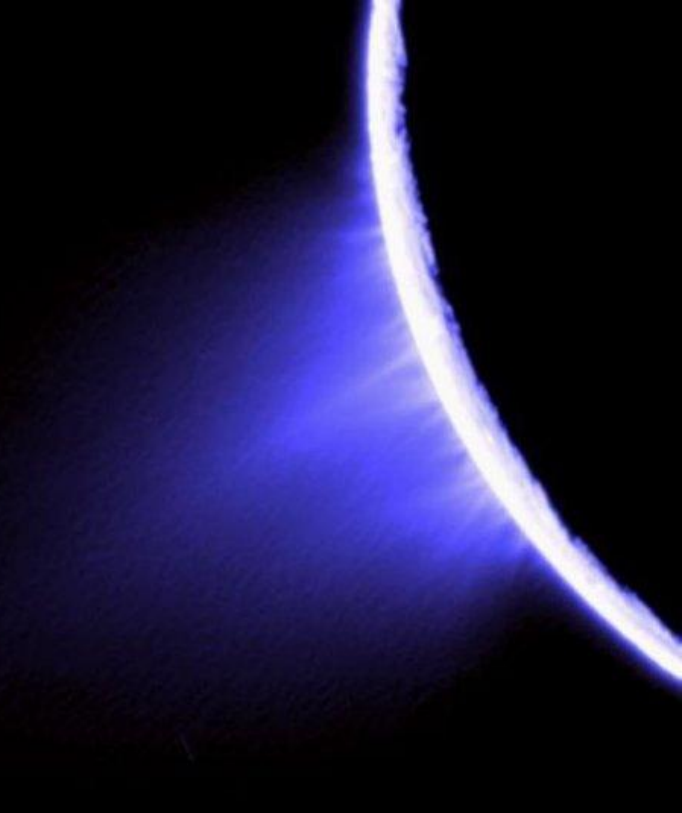
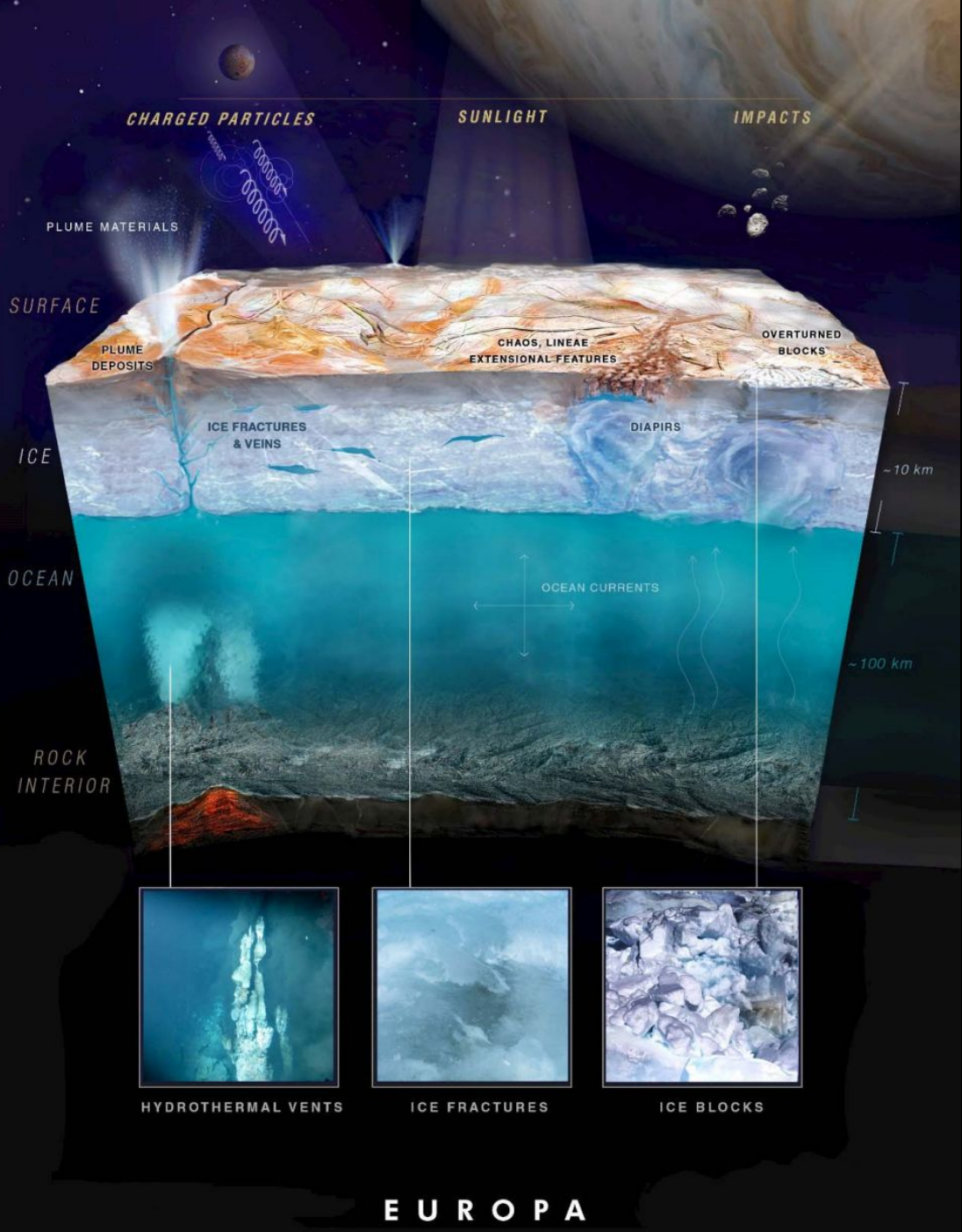
$$T = -170 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$$





**EUROPA**





Earth is the only planet we know that harbors life



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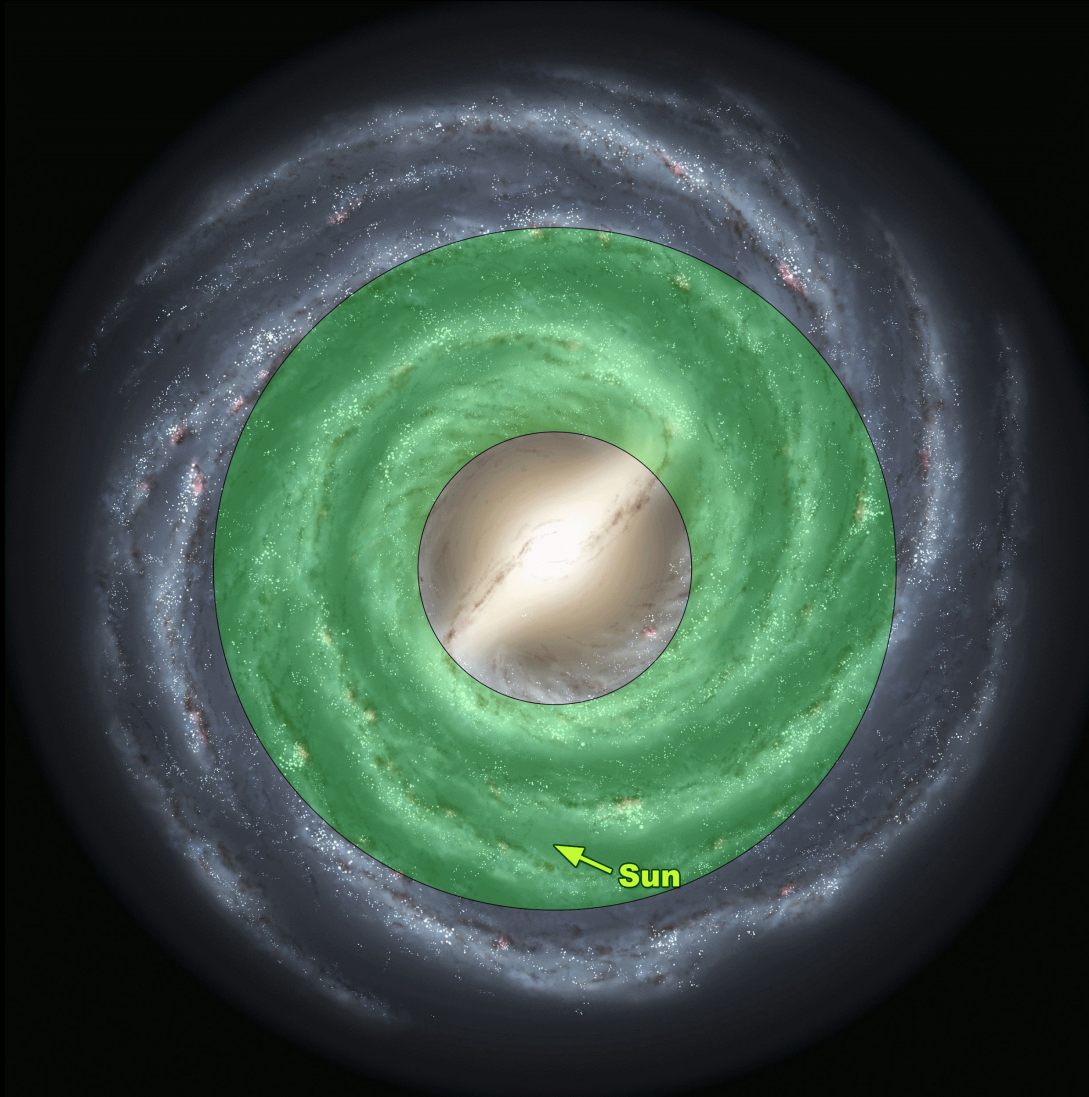


*WHY?*

# RARE EARTH HYPOTHESIS



# RARE EARTH HYPOTHESIS

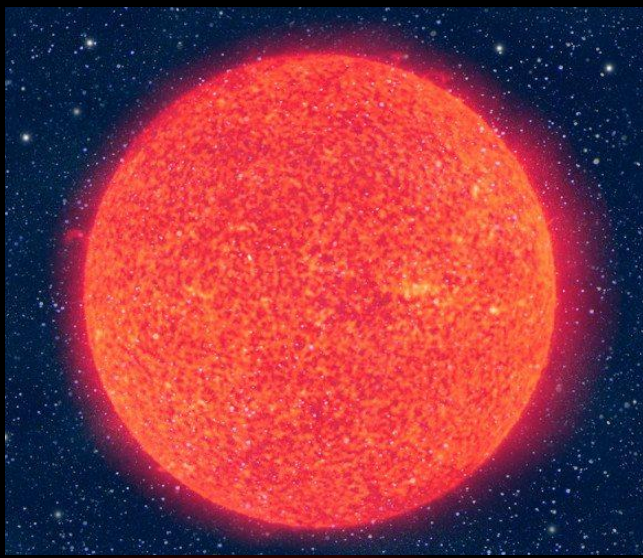


Milky Way is a rather stable galaxy

Galactic habitable zone

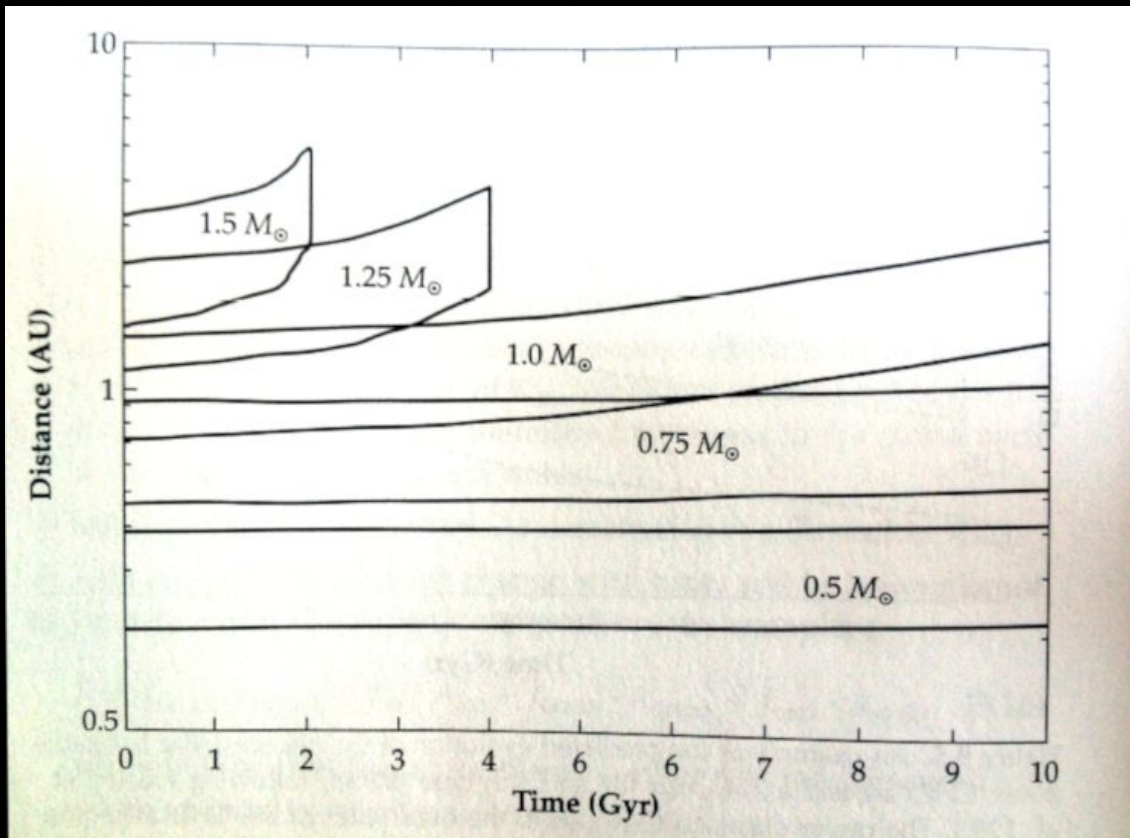
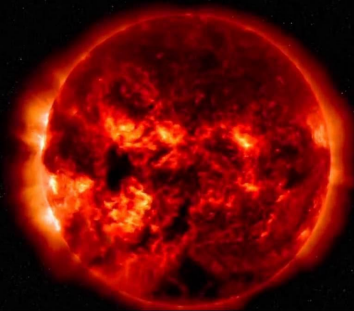
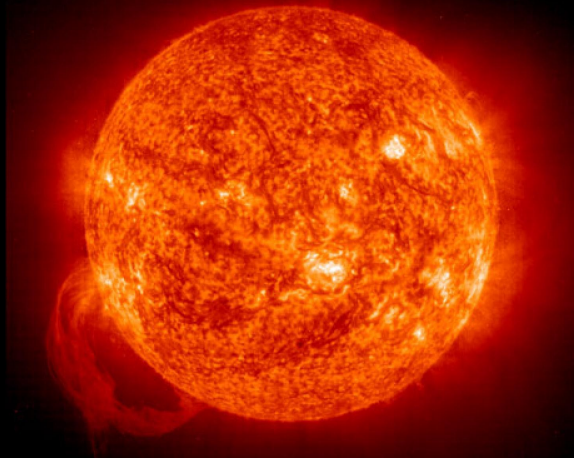
- Metallicity
- Radiation
- Disastrous events

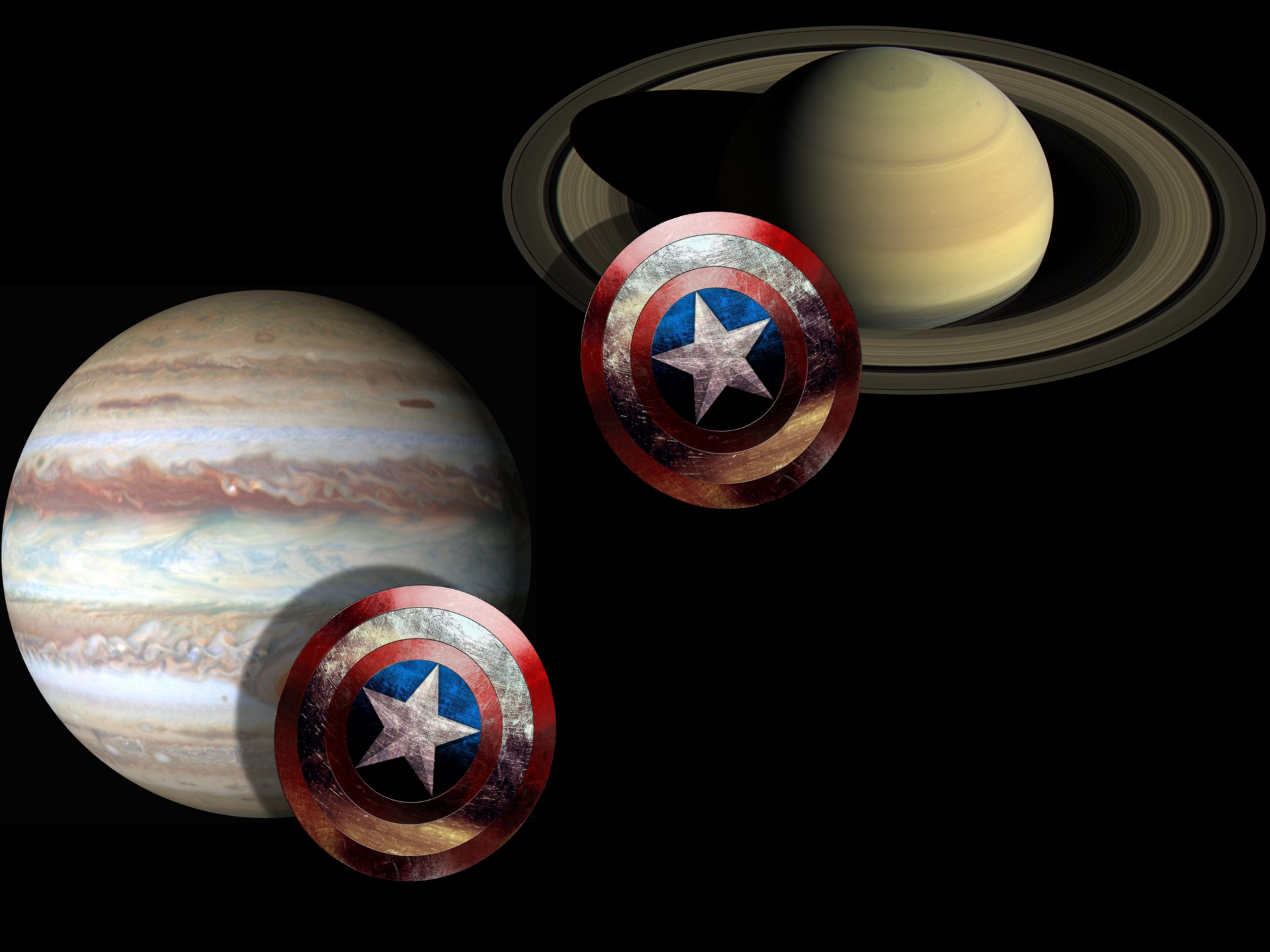


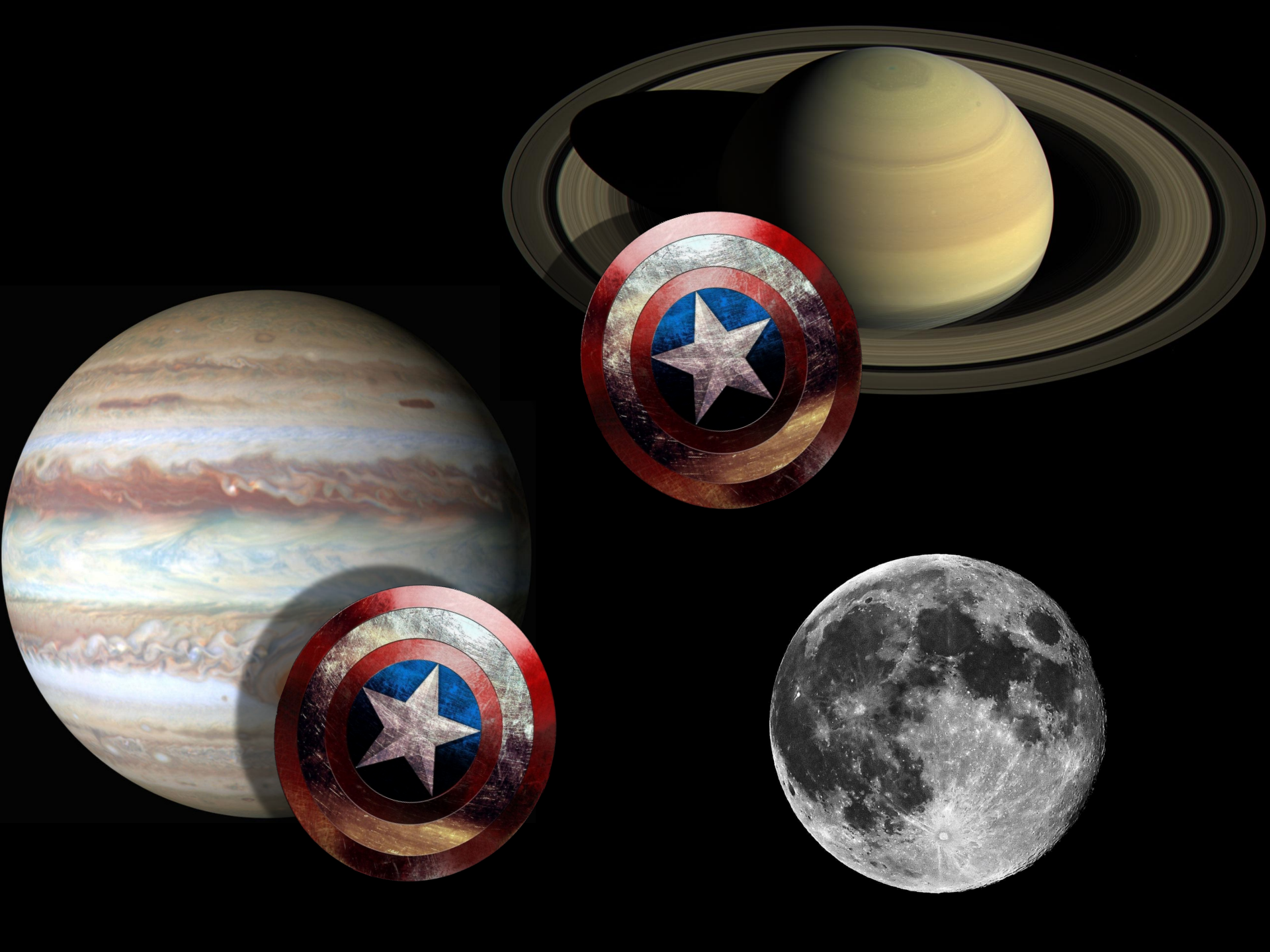


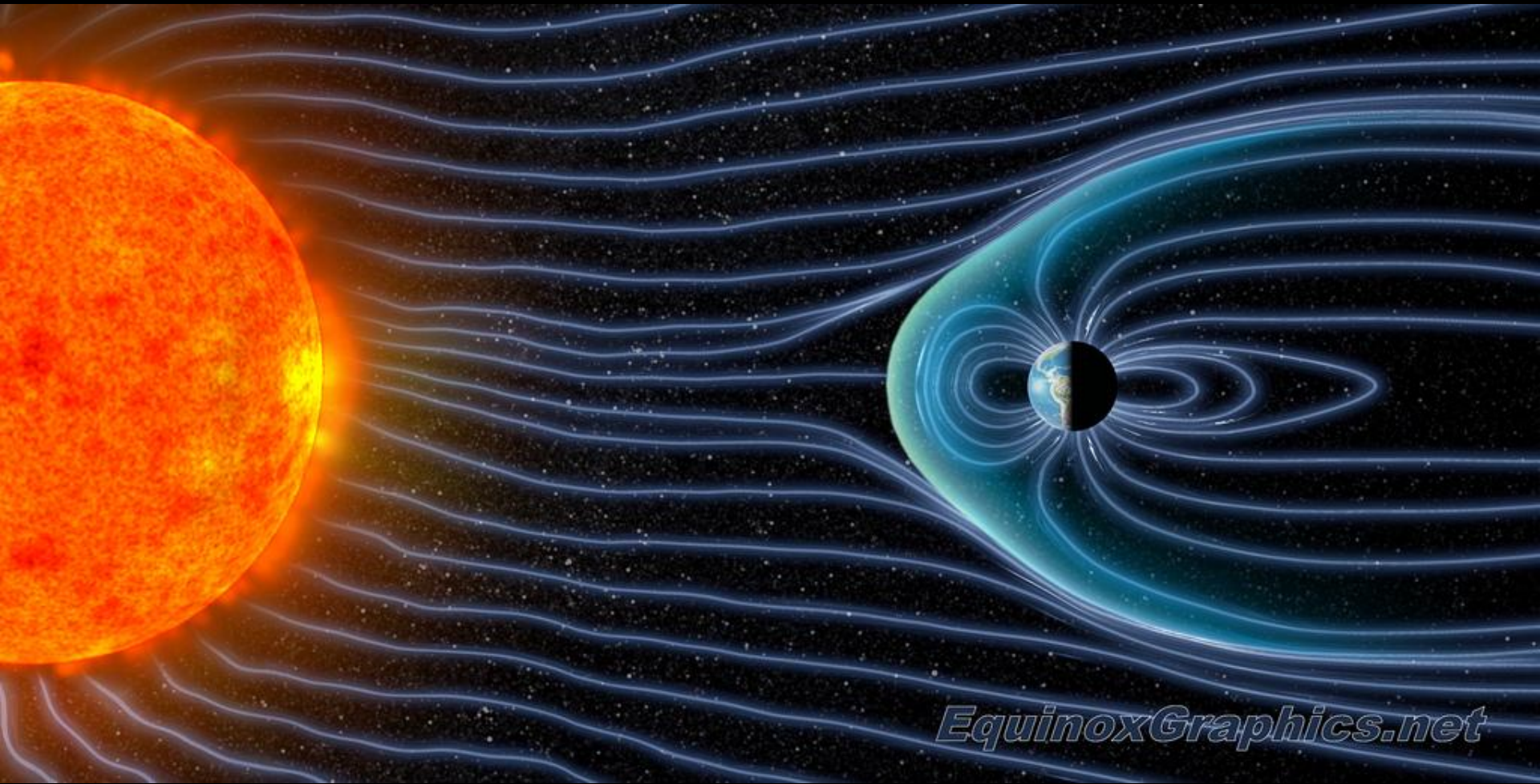
Stable star

Stable Habitable Zone:  
in time and space

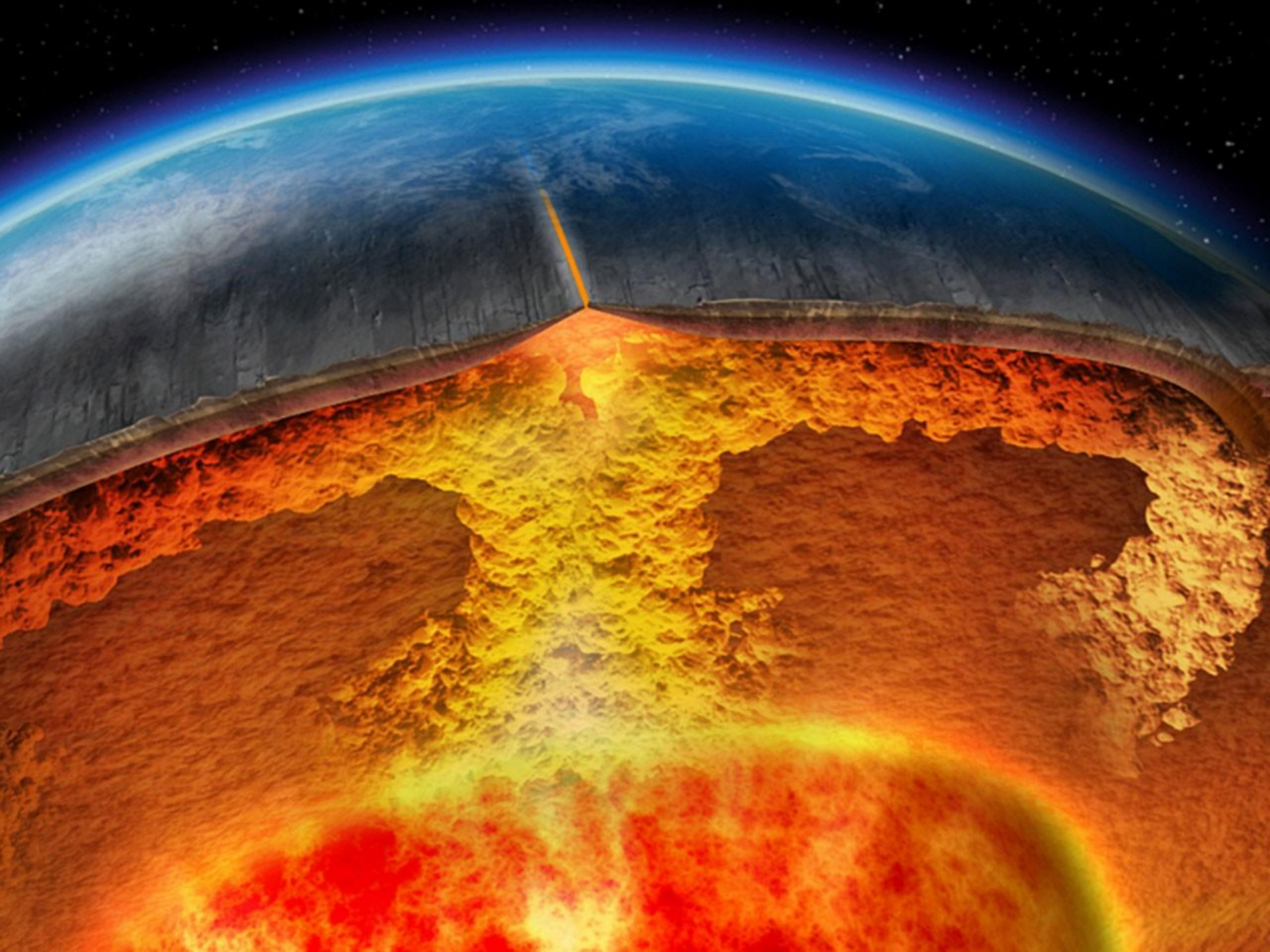


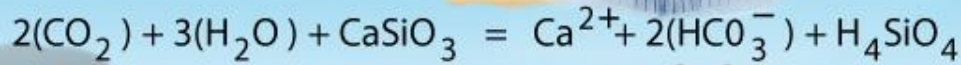
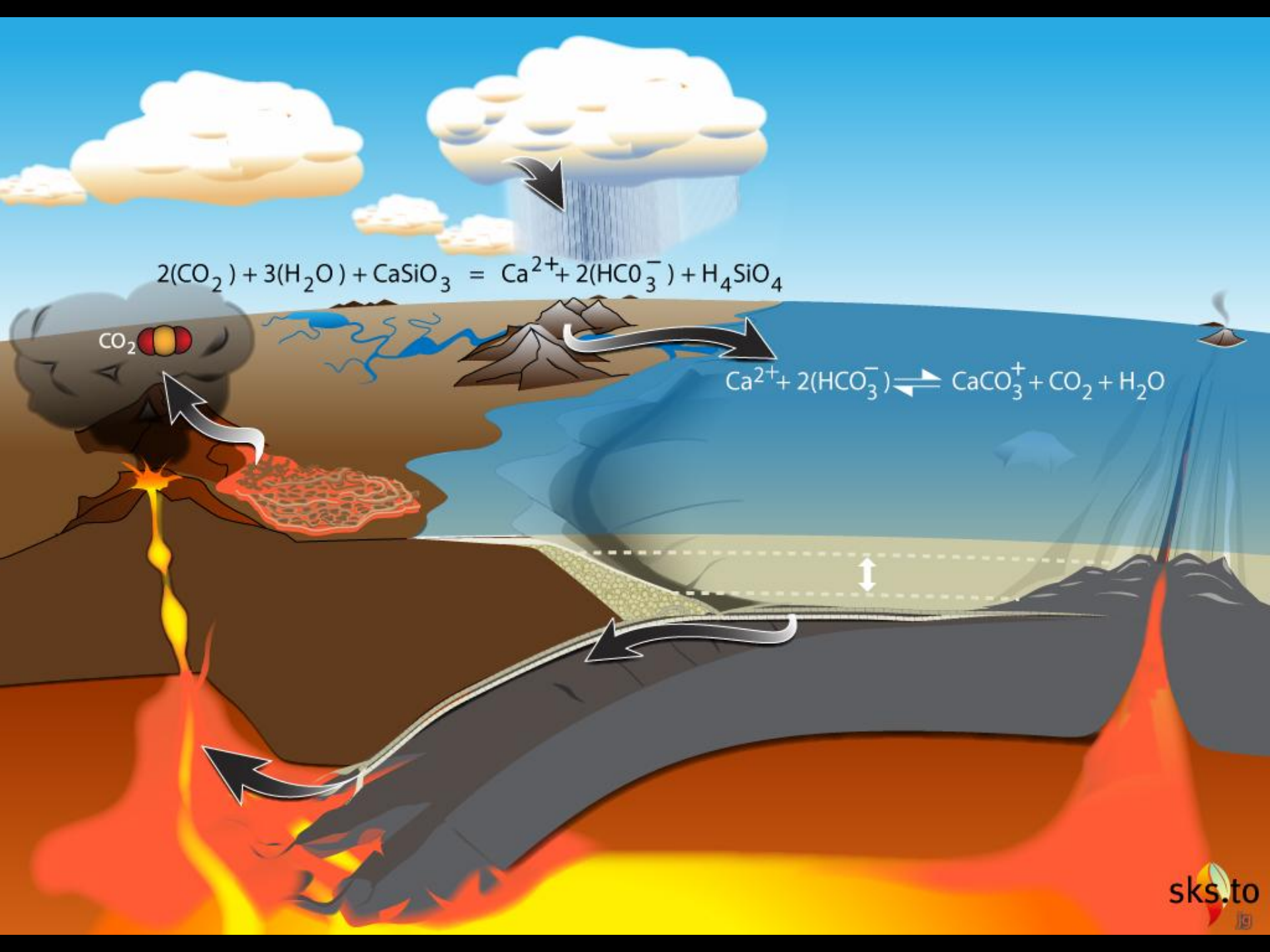




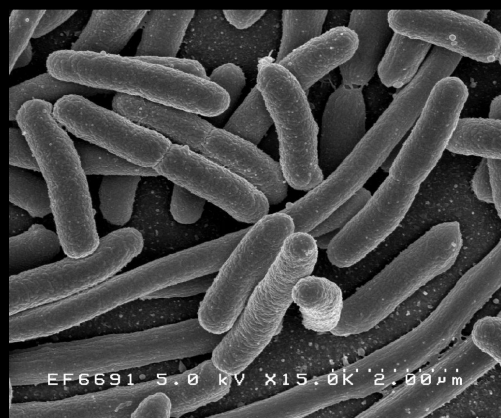
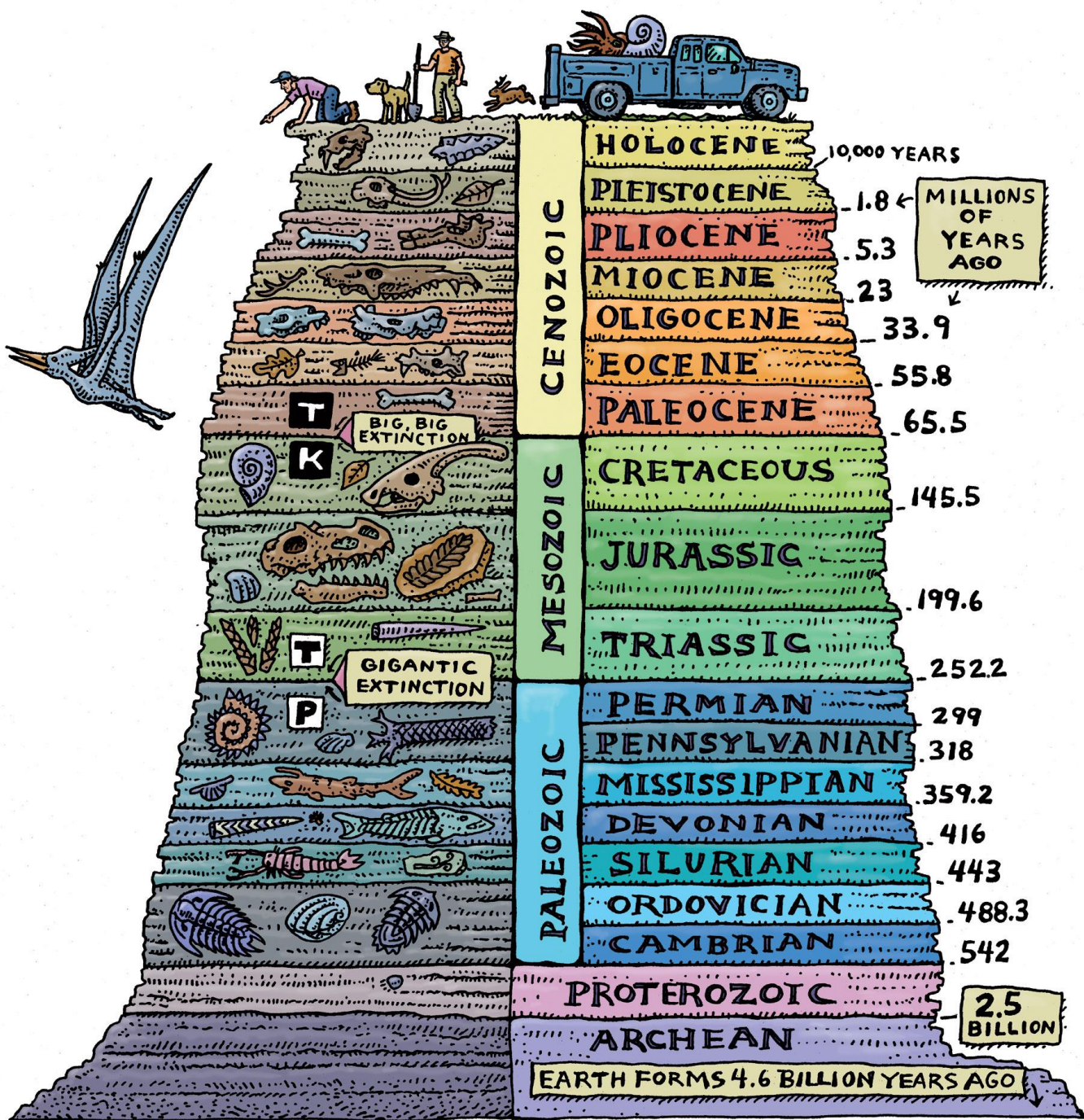


*EquinoxGraphics.net*

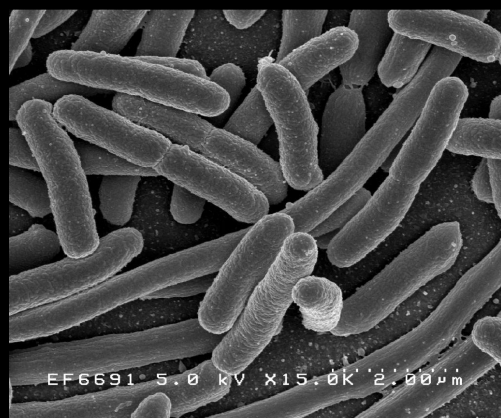
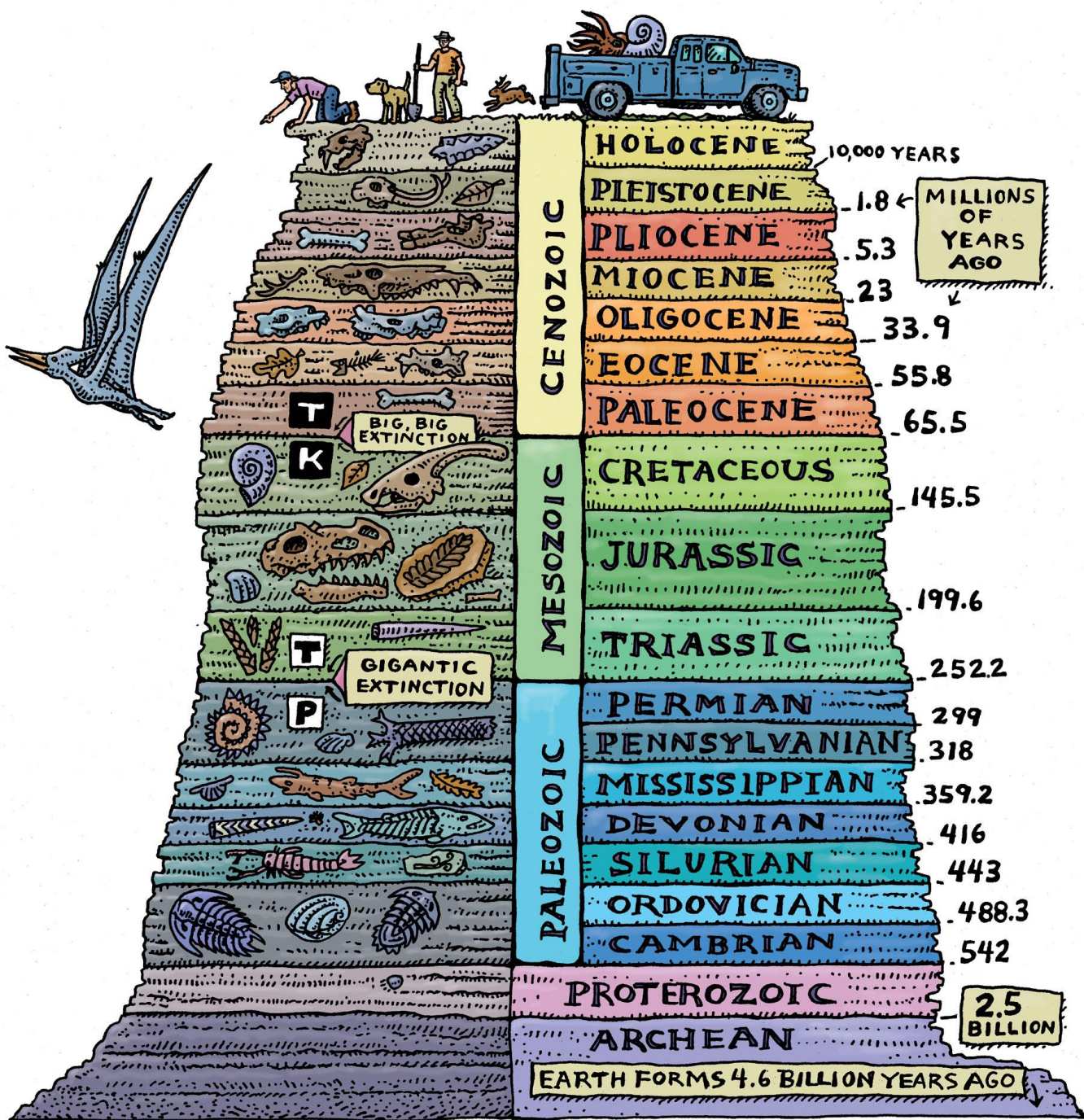


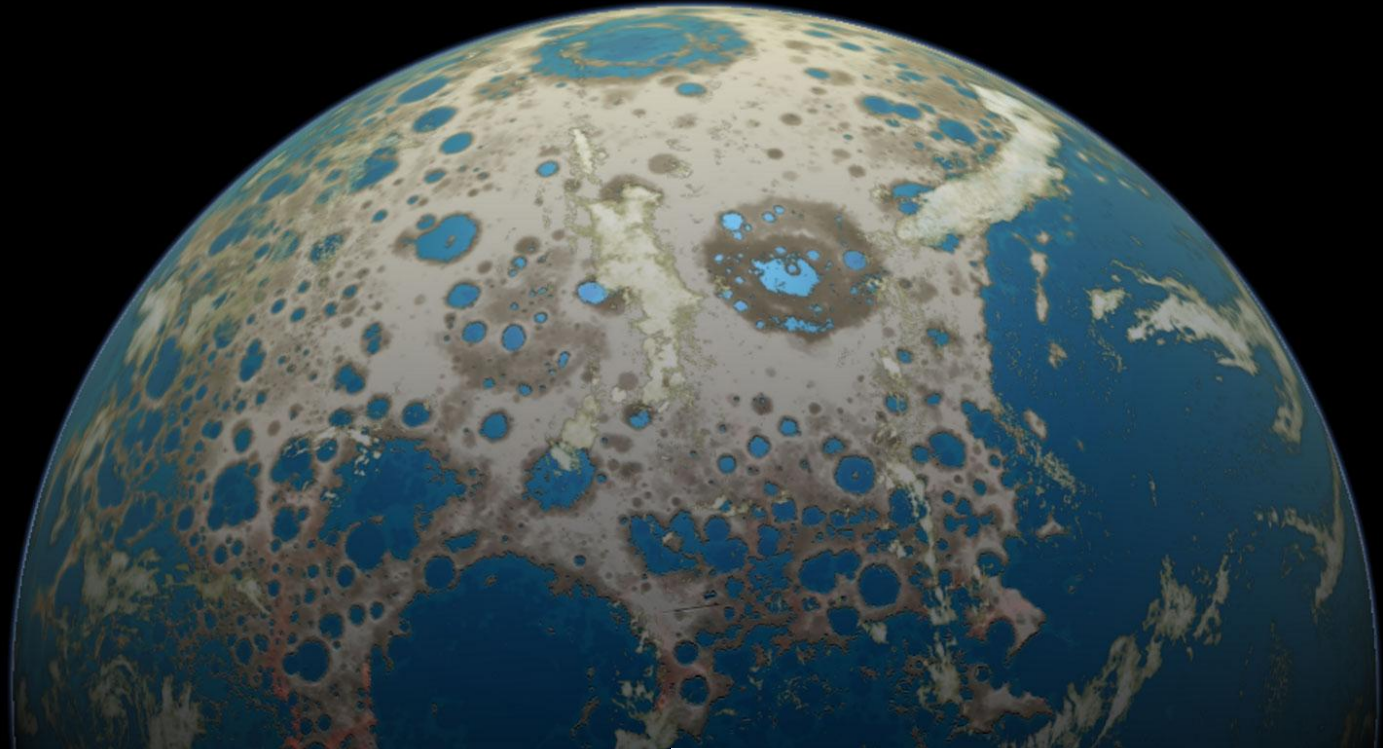




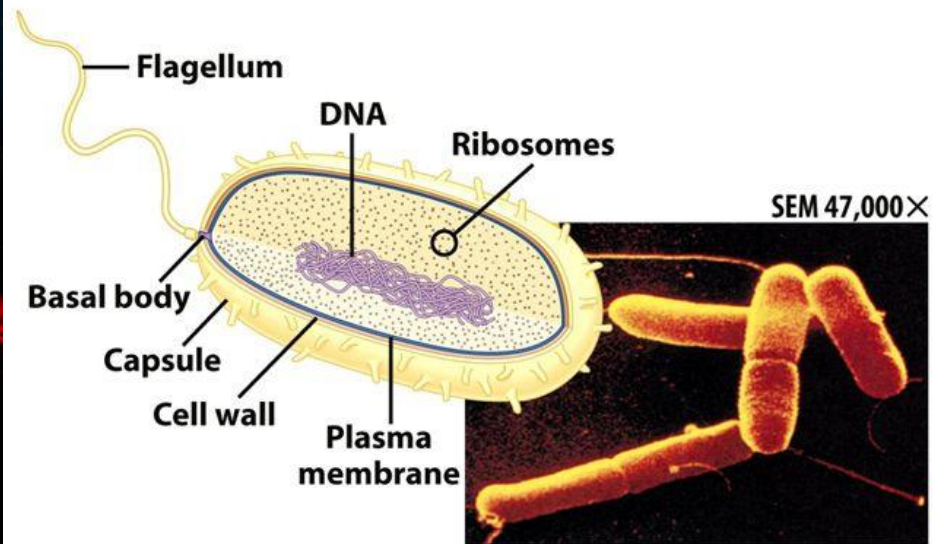








## Bacteria and Archaea



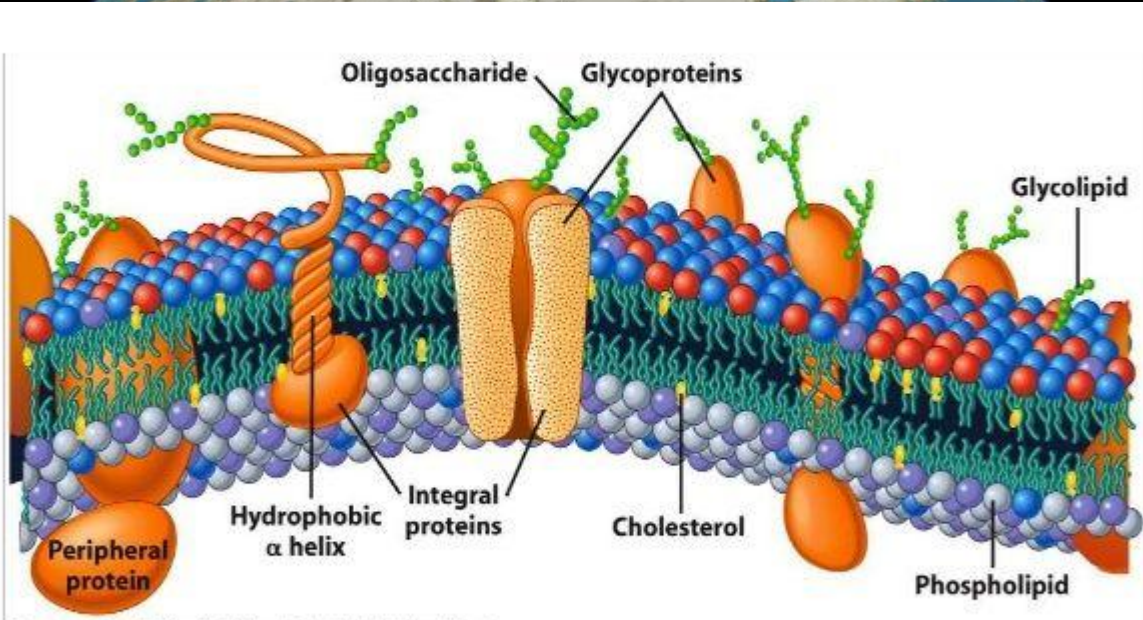
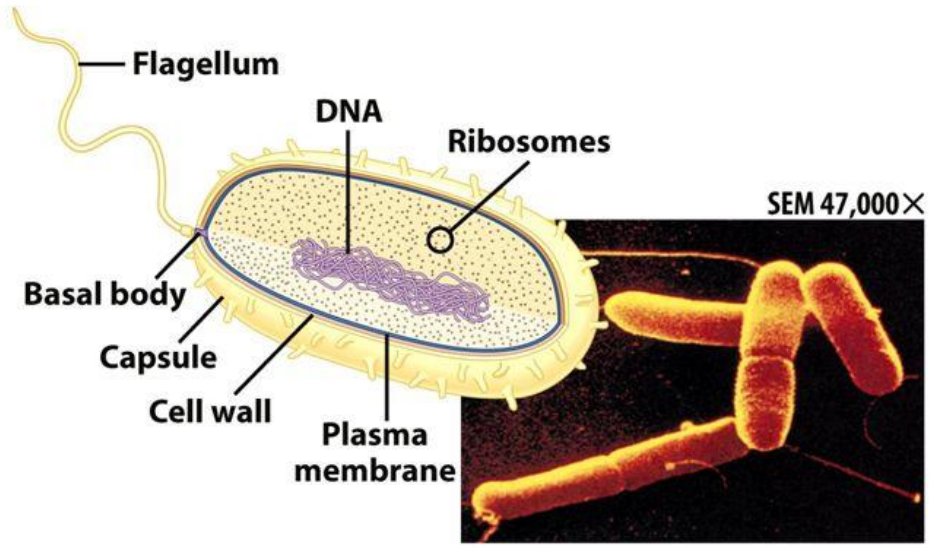
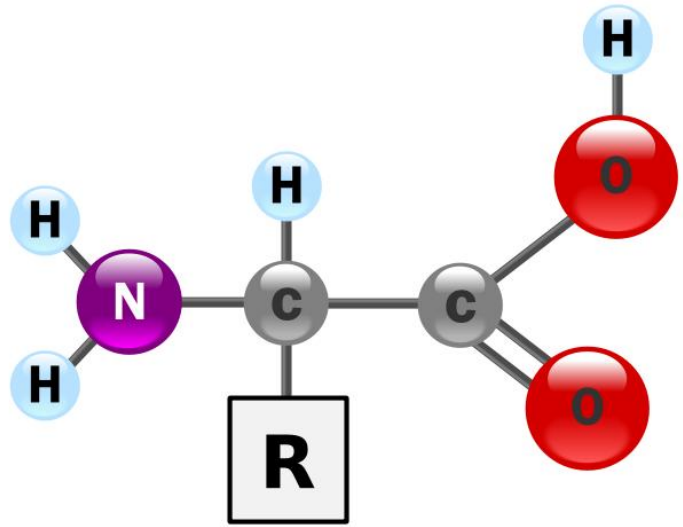
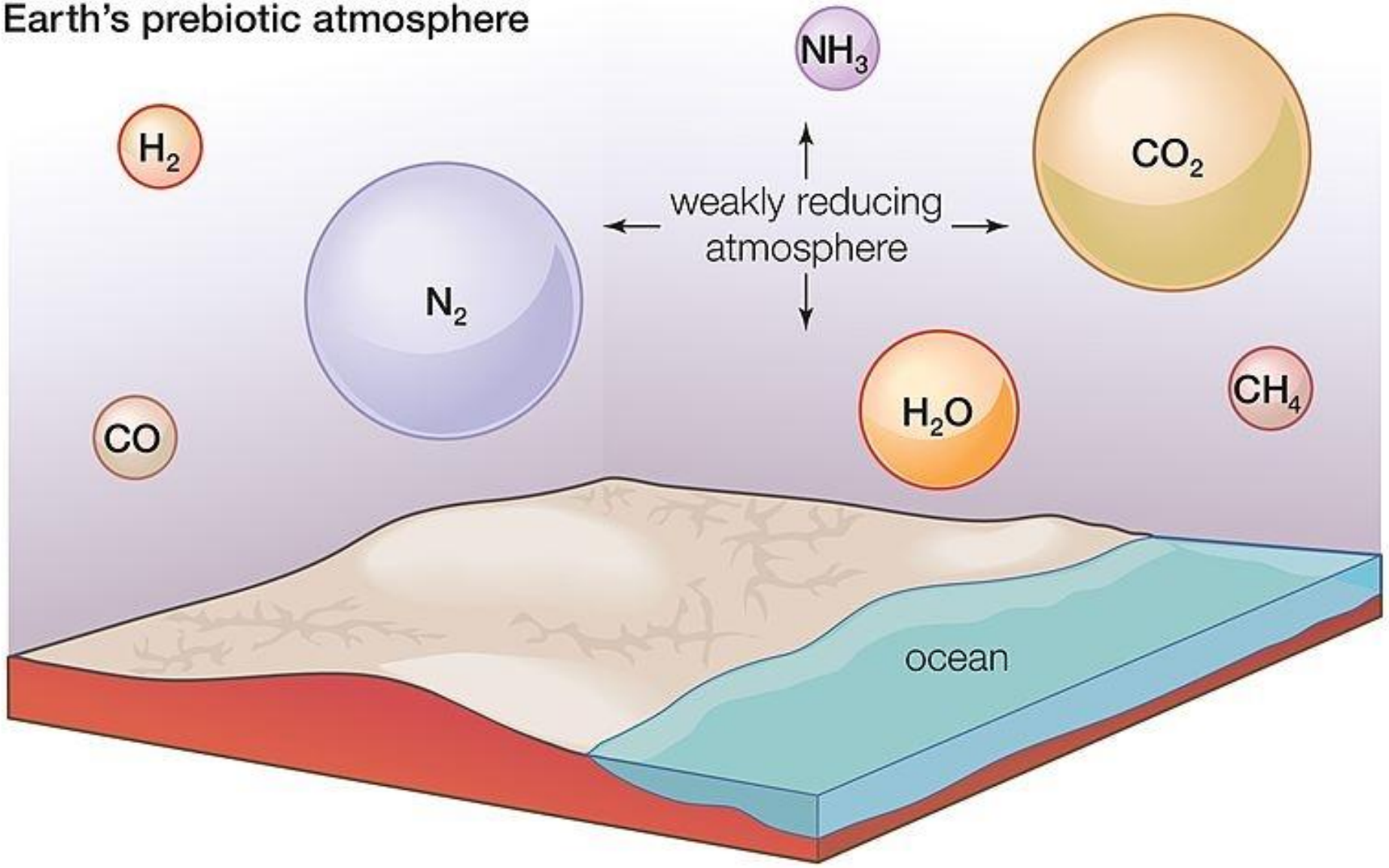


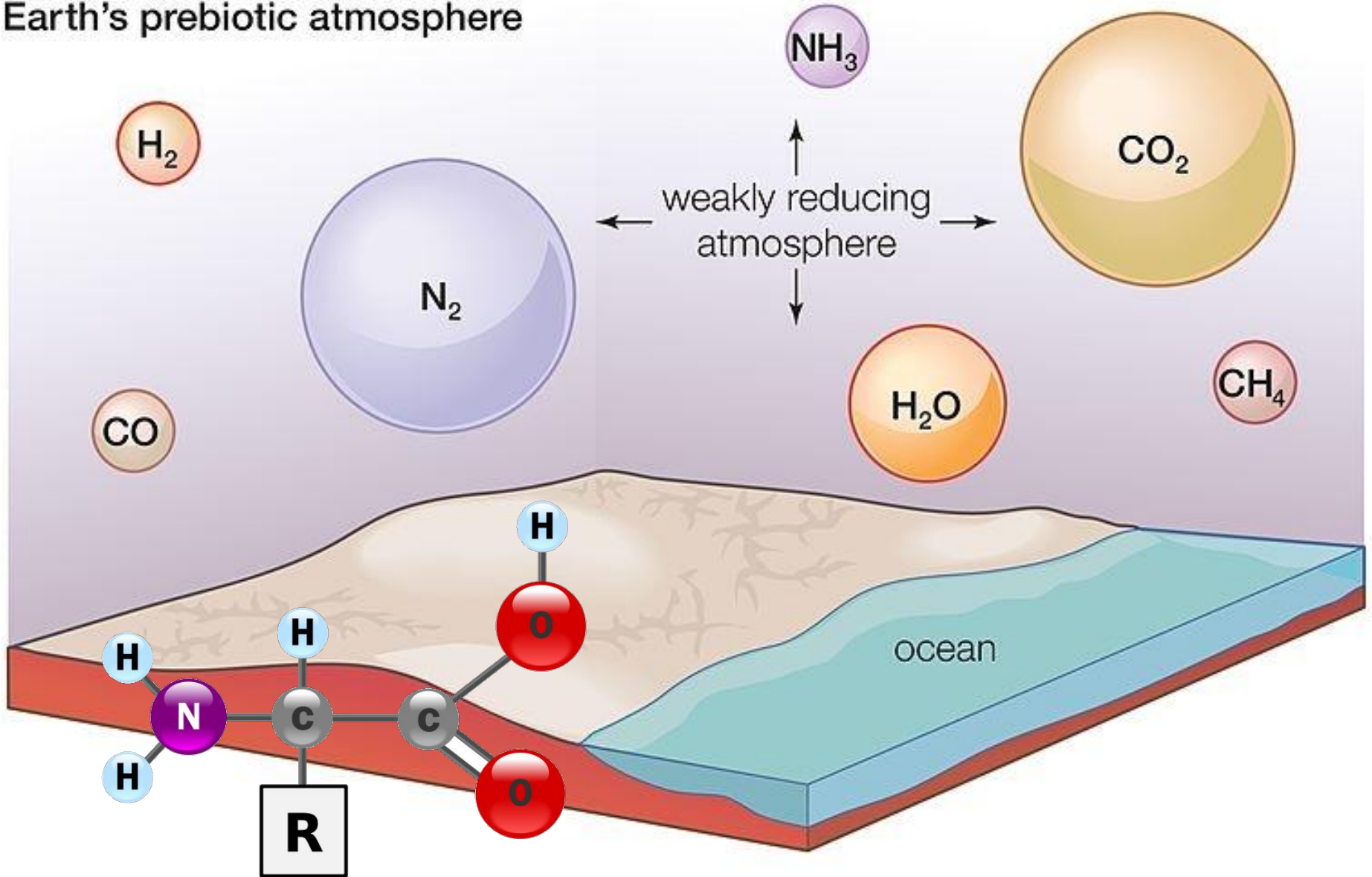
Figure 4-4c Cell and Molecular Biology, 5/e (© 2008 John Wiley & Sons)

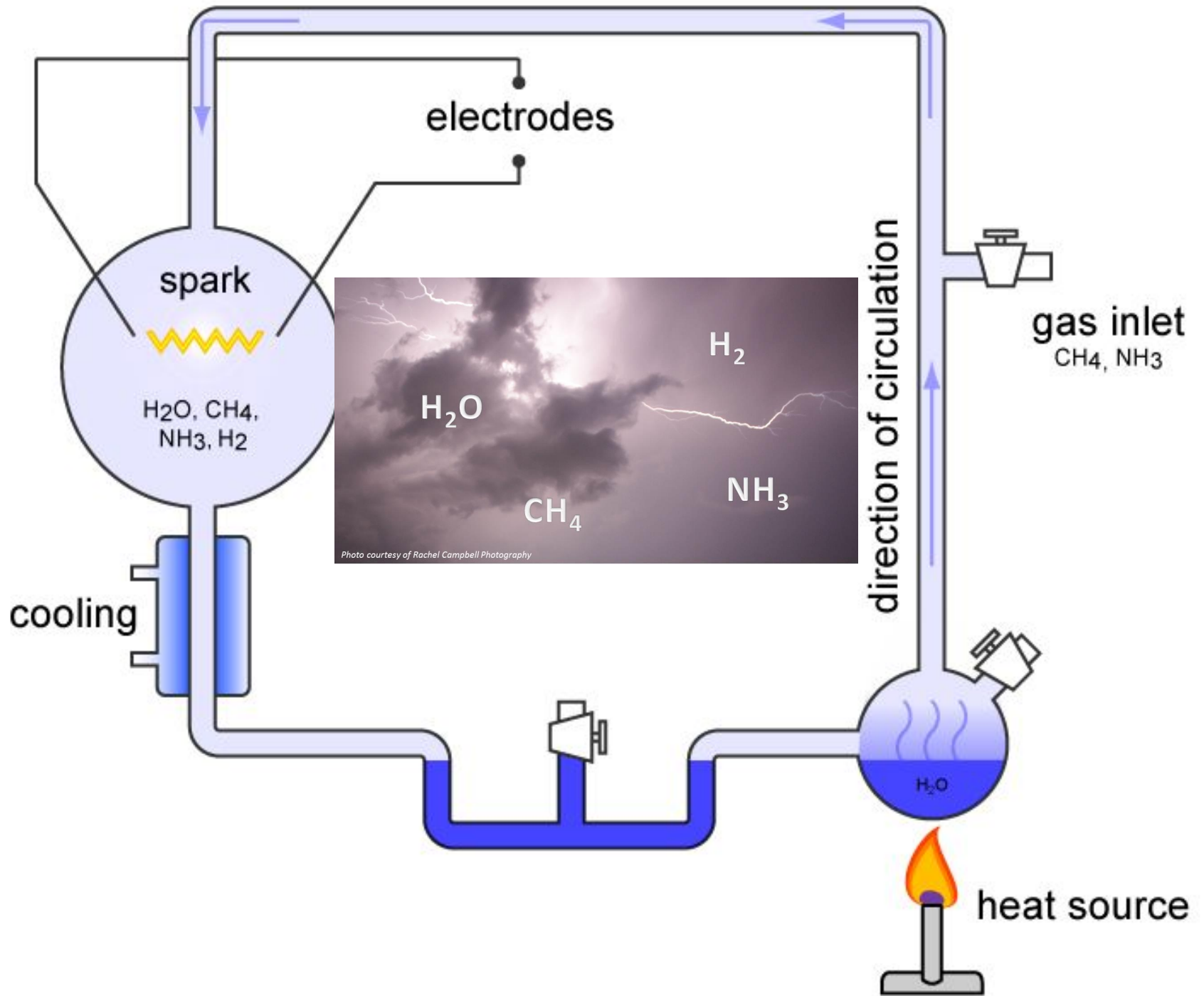


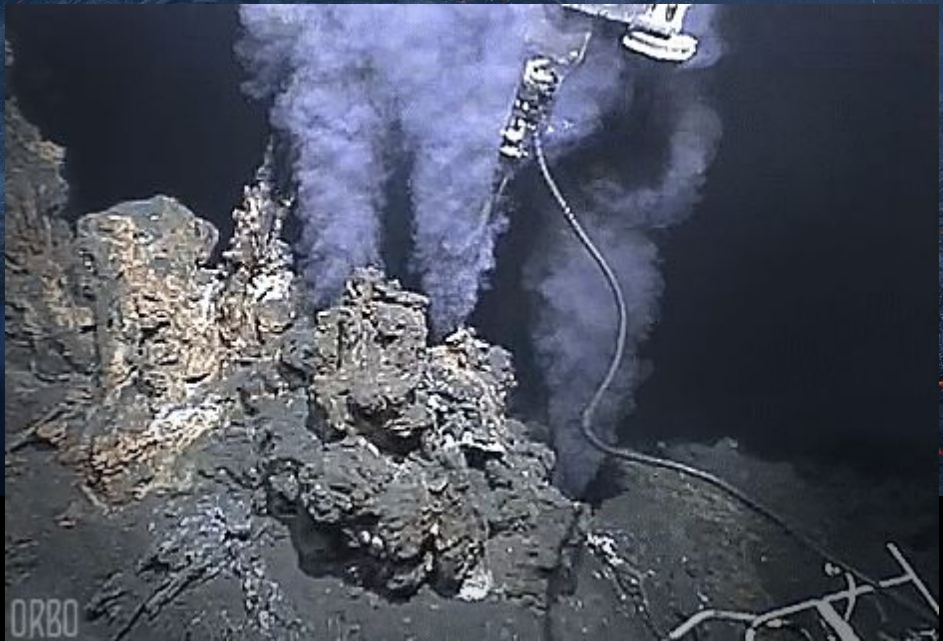
# Earth's prebiotic atmosphere



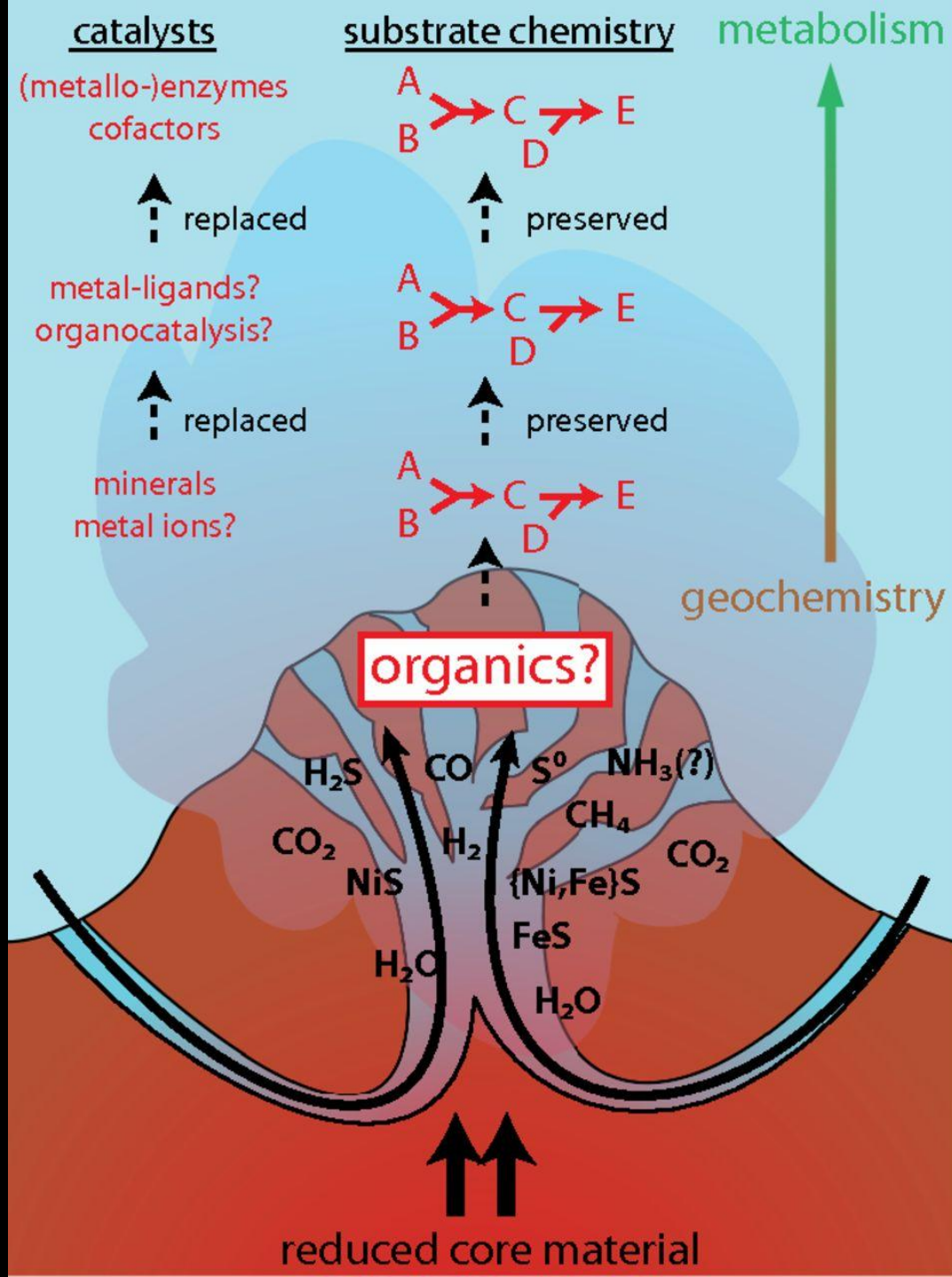
# Earth's prebiotic atmosphere







ORBO







ORBO

*Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* (or 4000 m in this case)



Vents Temperature 400 °C

# EXTREMOPHILES

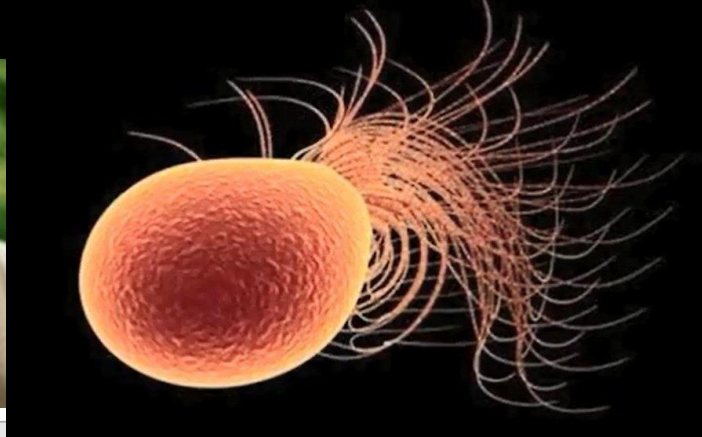




The limits of known life on Earth.<sup>[10]</sup>

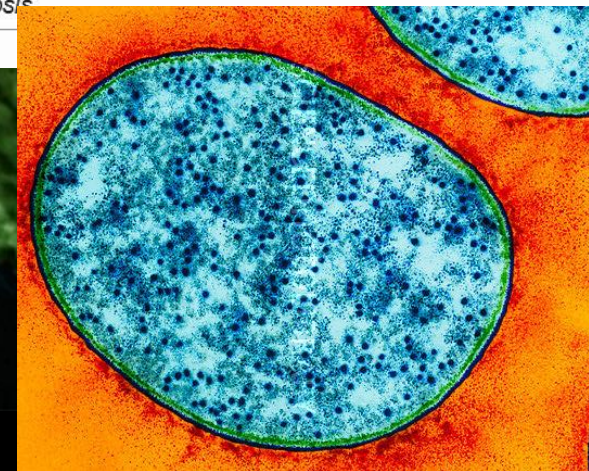
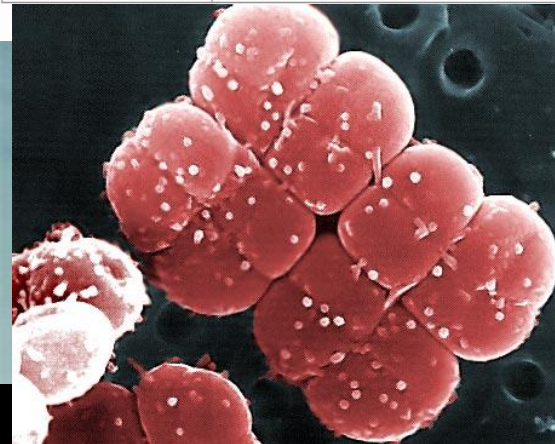
Factor	Environment / source	Limits	Examples
High temperature	Submarine hydrothermal vents	110 °C to 121 °C	<i>Pyrolobus fumarii</i> , <i>Pyrococcus furiosus</i>
Low temperature	Ice	-17 °C to -20 °C	<i>Synechococcus lividus</i>
Alkaline systems	Soda lakes	pH > 11	<i>Psychrobacter</i> , <i>Vibrio</i> , <i>Arthrobacter</i> , <i>Natronobacterium</i>
Acidic systems	Volcanic springs, acid mine drainage	pH -0.06 to 1.0	<i>Bacillus</i> , <i>Clostridium paradoxum</i>
Ionizing radiation	Cosmic rays, X-rays, radioactive decay	1,500 to 6,000 Gy	<i>Deinococcus radiodurans</i> , <i>Rubrobacter</i> , <i>Thermococcus gammatolerans</i>
UV radiation	Sunlight	5,000 J/m <sup>2</sup>	<i>Deinococcus radiodurans</i> , <i>Rubrobacter</i> , <i>Thermococcus gammatolerans</i>
High pressure	Mariana Trench	1,100 bar	<i>Pyrococcus</i> sp.
Salinity	Low temperature systems	a <sub>w</sub> ~ 0.6	<i>Halobacteriaceae</i> , <i>Dunaliella salina</i>
Desiccation	Atacama Desert (Chile), McMurdo Dry Valleys (Antarctica)	~60% relative humidity	<i>Chroococcidiopsis</i>





The limits of known life on Earth.<sup>[10]</sup>

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**THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION...**

**... SEE YOU SPACE COWBOY**