



Cool Career

Planetary Scientist

Carolyn Porco

Space Science Institute

Ring Around the Planets

Call her a scientist with a thing for rings. Carolyn Porco studies the magnificent sheet of rings that surrounds Saturn—as well as those around Jupiter, Uranus, and Neptune. Her work has helped to explain what rings are—billions of bits of ice zipping around in the same direction as they orbit a planet. Her work has also helped to explain how rings interact with moons to create ringlets.

Hello, Saturn

Carolyn also keeps an eye on Saturn with her team. “We never tire of seeing this gorgeous giant,” she says. The team chooses which images the Cassini spacecraft takes of Saturn and its rings and moons, including mysterious Titan. As *Cassini* orbits Saturn, it is giving scientists their closest views yet of the ringed planet.

An imaging scientist studies pictures captured by spacecraft and Earth telescopes to learn more about objects in space. Carolyn studies planets with rings. **Other imaging scientists**

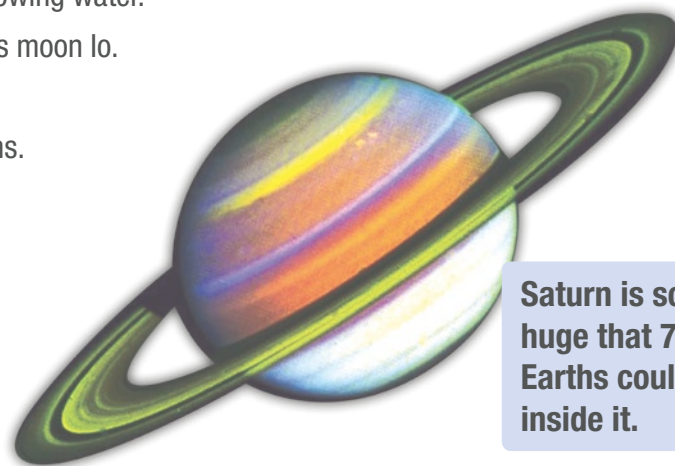
- > examine gullies on Mars for evidence of flowing water.
- > study volcanic plumes rising from Jupiter’s moon Io.
- > track swirling storms on Saturn.
- > pick landing spots for future Moon missions.



Extra-terrific! When Carolyn was working on the next *Star Trek* movie, a model of ET was in the studio.



Carolyn takes a break from her mission of unraveling the mysteries of Saturn.



Saturn is so huge that 750 Earths could fit inside it.

