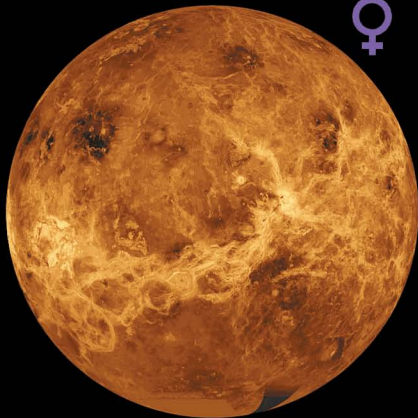


VENUS

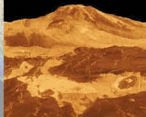


"THE HOTTEST PLANET"



Known for its beauty in the sky, Venus is the second planet from the Sun and similar in size to Earth. However, its immense surface heat and pressure make the planet completely uninhabitable. It has a thick, poisonous atmosphere of carbon dioxide and sulfuric acid. Thick clouds hide a surface covered with lava flows, quake faults and impact craters. In fact, one lava-filled basin is larger than the continental United States and one volcano is taller than Mt. Everest.

Computer image of the volcano Maat Mons.



In the early 1990s, NASA's Magellan spacecraft studied the rocky planet, examining the shapes of Venesian mountains, canyons and other surface features. Magellan data has been used to make maps of the surface properties and the planet's interior.



National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Jet Propulsion Laboratory
California Institute of Technology
Pasadena, California

<http://solarsystem.nasa.gov>

JPL 400-1147M
Rev. 1, 9/04
EB-2004-04-027