

Guide to Planets

This is a guide to help people better understand how to create planets, but also, what they can add to a planet to 'flavor' it up a bit and separate it from the norm. This guide was originally started out as something for the [kingdom_of_neshaten](#) faction by it's FM, but a request by the site's administrator changed that.

Creation Process

When creating a planet, it is good to remember that you need to have a balance in what goes into the planet and also the system that planet is attached to. If you are going to make a planet for an already established system, but a system that presently doesn't have any information on it, then make sure to ask the settings manager first.

The first thing to look at is this site: [Star System Generator](#), a note - even though this links to a star system generator, that generator also generates the planets and all of the information that you would need.

Once you have a system, you can work on the planets. Naturally, you can alter some of the information to your need. For example, maybe you want the last planet in the system to be habitable? You can do that, just add a few small pieces of information and you've got it.

Now, that isn't the only thing about planets that you can do with it. A planet, while the generator does give you some neat things (like wrecked starships and such) you can put a lot more on a planet. It is impossible to assume that every planet in the universe would be just like our Earth, or like the planets in our local star system, if you've seen Venus then you know that a planet can have a situation much different from our own.

What this means is that you can add other things to a planet, the list below is what has been compiled thus far on what can be on a planet and what each one of the headers means.

Requirements

In order for you to have a great star system article, you will need:

- An article about the star system (in the *system:* namespace)
- An article for each terrestrial planet in the system (in the *planet:* namespace)

Using A Generator

There is a really great Star System Generator over at <http://donjon.bin.sh/scifi/system/> that can be used.

Instructions

1. Enter your Star System's name in the Name field.
2. Check "Force this system to include a terrestrial world" if desired.
3. Press the "Create" button to generate a star system.

Note that terrestrial planets (only) will have a link usable to get detailed information about the planet.

Putting It On The Wiki

If the system you generated doesn't meet your needs, you can use your browser to go back to the white screen and press the random button to generate a new seed number.

If you like the system, create the system wiki page and put the system information in an H3 "Data" section of the wiki page. The section headers for the various planets should be H4. Make sure to remove the tab spacing copied over so the text comes out correctly on the wiki. Make sure to link to the planet's page.

For the planet page, make sure to link back to the system page. Both the planet and the system pages should have at least a few sentences of original text giving the reader an overview of the star system or planet. Just copy/pasting the generated data is not acceptable. If appropriate consider adding a [random small starport](#).

Images

The planet page will automatically include a rectangular "map" image of the surface.

Here's a neat trick, though: Note that in the planet page's URL there is the seed number and the amount of water and ice. Open the [Scifi World Generator](#) in another tab and set the image height to 175 or below and enter the seed, ice, and water numbers and then change the image type to animated globe. The generator will show your planet as a rotating gif image!

Public Domain Images

We also have some public domain images (from NASA) available here: [Public Domain media](#)



Other Useful Images



Animated Planets

Check the media manager.

Special Features

Sometimes the generator will add special features like Advanced Alien Artifacts. Remember to avoid making these overpowered. Here's a good guide to what alien artifacts might be:

<http://www.xenology.info/Xeno/24.3.3.htm>

Examples

The following pages are good examples of what your results should look like:

- [Cellondora III](#)
- [Yicugibu](#) and [Yicugibu I](#)
- [HX-12 II](#)
- [HX-8 II](#)

Seeds

This section contains seed numbers known to generate useful and/or interesting results. Most of these were generated with the “Force terrestrial world” box check so you should check the box to get the correct result.

Note: if you create a wiki article using one of these, please remove it so we don't end up with two identical systems.

Alien Homeworlds

- 1591665970
- 963171758
- 1953647616
- 1434446031
- 539609271
- 914834808
- 2106135219
- 1254737928
- 934072714
- 92910094
- 1875054549
- 342338342

- 1335722707

Dense Breathable

- 997801477 with plants
- 691394976 algae
- 33774793 white giant
- 992121701
- 1908266896
- 1850931631
- 311940438
- 364745739 colony (cc, f)
- 999989994 (f)

Standard Breathable

Breathable planets are rare. Don't hog them!

- 1384976362
- 1345940364 (f)
- 873048810
- 144586420
- 1046664169
- 608960
- 949254148
- 581429327
- 476433909 (no water)
- 1964944270
- 1347247131

Thin Breathable

- 1307242345
- 867741567
- 1847264956
- 1774772041
- 1795620836
- 1888513888

Trace Breathable

- 225195505
- 1312109862

Other Stuff of Interest

- 1270773869
- 1871873766
- 681889081
- 1308805395 algae
- 405029992 algae, silicon based (f)
- 658336991 arthropods
- 308805514 worms
- 601170514 fungi
- 364745748 bryophytes (cc, force)
- 1345942402 5 Cthonians
- 675379875 nanotech fungi
- 1144366345 blue white with cthonian, oceanworld
- 1347243252 Cth
- 1040686401

Planetary Classifications

A classification is a type of anomaly that a world might have, this can range from being a perfect pearl world where the climate is great for habitation, or, more likely, could make the world even more hostile than the depths of outer space. There are many different anomalies that a world can have, and the following list is not exhaustive.

Desert World

A desert planet resembles a standard garden world, except for having very little of one key resource: Water. The sky is clear, except during sandstorms, and life barely hangs on. These worlds tend to be smaller and have thinner atmospheres than most standard worlds. A world without an atmosphere is simply barren, not a desert world.

Ice world

In most cases, ice worlds are literally made of ice, having formed far from their star; though not so far that their atmosphere has frozen on as well. Sometimes an ice world is an ocean world that is simply going through an ice age.

Water World

A water world is a terrestrial planet with so much water it has almost no (or even absolutely no) land area. In extreme cases, its oceans may be miles deep. These worlds may have life, but usually do not

produce complex life, as life on land is considerably more challenging. The most likely worlds to have this condition (and to have the most extreme examples of it) are also the largest; worlds with dense helium atmospheres that for whatever reason were not able to gather enough material to become gas giants. Standard worlds may also less commonly have this condition.

Hollow World

A hollow world is a world that has a network of tunnels that run throughout its crust. These tunnels may have no explanations, or there may be speculation that natural processes, native creatures, or long-dead colonists were responsible. Whatever their origins, these tunnels can be large enough for cities to be built inside, and even for starships to pass through. The protection of miles of rock can make these worlds difficult to bombard or invade.

Eden World

An Eden World is ideal for colonization, having a benign atmosphere and biosphere, and just the right balance of climate and temperature. Newly-discovered worlds of this type are coveted by many factions, and they are very rare!

Electromagnetic Storms

An anomaly that can be found on some worlds, EM storms can cause electronics to malfunction or burnt out, and can bring down starships, if they are not prepared. Even regular shield systems aren't effective in combating an EM storm. EM storms are particularly effective at interfering with sensor equipment. They are particularly common when the world in question is a major moon of a gas giant.

Planetary Special Conditions

The following are planetary conditions that take the place of the specials tag when creating planets. These conditions are optional when creating planets, they are mainly there to add a bit more depth to a planet. Particularly interesting planets are those that have both special advantages and flaws, for example, a world with a noxious atmosphere that also has a cavern system, encouraging residents to take shelter in pressurized habitats underground.

Ground Based Conditions

Ground Based Conditions refers to conditions that are found below its cloud cover.

Dense Cloud Cover

Planets with dense atmospheres, especially large terrestrial planets (for gas giants, it goes without saying!), are often cloudy everywhere, all the time. This type of cloud cover makes it very difficult to see the surface with visual sensors, and can often obscure other sensors as well.

Extreme Tectonic Activity

An unstable world that is largely unsuitable for the world is almost constantly shaking, forming mountains, or even liquefying. Engineers must take extraordinary measures to build anything lasting, and farming is mostly fruitless due to the broken terrain. Such worlds are also typically volcanically active, which offers something of a silver lining: They are likely to have valuable resource deposits exposed near the surface.

Noxious Atmosphere

A Noxious atmosphere is one where the planet is not suitable by any lengths for colonization without the use of highly advanced life support systems, but this is depending on what makes up the atmosphere; some of these atmospheres might actually be dangerous to buildings.

Dense Flora

A planet that is covered in dense flora makes for a good planet to house agricultural industries, but also makes life difficult on invading forces.

Atmospheric Instability

Atmospheric Instability refers to a planet whose atmosphere is slowly being 'bled' away, the atmosphere on the planet is so unstable that there are 'holes' in it, which means that there might be areas on the planet that can't support life while other areas can.

Volcanically Active

This type of planet is highly active in terms of volcanic activity, earthquakes are also common-place and the land is usually covered in molten seas and lakes. The average temperature may be too high for people to explore the planet without specialized equipment and even then setting up buildings is next to impossible. A phenomenon known as 'lava-rain' usually plagues these types of planets.

Lava Rain

Lava Rain is essentially lava that has been spewed into the air at such high velocities that it comes back down to the planet in the form of rain, usually resembling very thin threads that are capable of puncturing bodysuits and most lightly armored individuals, this type of rain can also destroy equipment and can severe damage to starships that may fly through it.

Ancient Ruins

These ancient ruins are evidence of a once long dead civilization, although whether they are the remains of a city or a small outpost remains to be seen. Such ruins could contain a wealth of information or even a great deal of danger.

Orbital Conditions

Like the ground based conditions, this one relates to what might be orbiting a planet.

Dense Planetary Rings

Dense Planetary Rings are a boon to mining corporations, due to the large numbers of asteroids that make up the rings themselves. These defence rings can also serve as a perfect location for a planetary defence network, such as star fighter hangers built into an asteroid or large gun emplacements.

Derelict Starship

Derelict Starships can either be a boon or a hindrance depending on what is contained within; such ships can either be big or small, wide or narrow.

Derelict Station

Similar to a derelict starship, derelict stations can pose both a positive or a negative depending on what is found within. Some of these stations could be in a decaying orbit, which means they would eventually crash onto the planet and depending on their size - they could easily cause considerable damage upon impact.

Moons

Self-exclamatory.

Close Orbital Planetoids

While similar to moons, they differ in that they are not located in a stable orbit, these particular types of moons are dangerous because of how close they orbit their parent planet. Most planets that possess these types of moons may in fact not have a stable atmosphere or no atmosphere at all.

Star Army Guide to Types of Planets



The following article is currently NOT APPROVED for in-character usage.

As seen on SARP's [Star Map](#), the Kikyo Sector has a wide variety of star systems, and those star systems have a wide variety of planets. Though every planet has its own unique properties, they can be grouped together into general types. This guide may also help to understand the star system creation guide, by describing the range of environments that might be generated using the Star System Calculator.

The broadest way to classify planets is by their overall size. While size alone doesn't determine a planet's type, planets can be classified this way because their black body temperature, in conjunction with the planet's mass, determines the heaviest molecules the world can retain in its atmosphere. This means planets closer to their star, and orbiting brighter stars, might be more massive than colder planets that have been placed into a larger size category.

Since helium and hydrogen are the two most common elements in the universe, worlds that are large enough to retain helium usually, but not always, grow large enough to also retain hydrogen, and become gas giants. 'Standard' worlds are too small to retain helium, but still large enough to retain the all-essential water molecule. If they are in a star's habitable zone, they may have liquid-water oceans, a requirement for carbon-based life. Worlds somewhat smaller than this may still be able to retain dense nitrogen-based atmospheres, useful for exploration and terraforming. Smaller worlds never have significant atmosphere, and are only rarely of interest.

Gas giants themselves come in many sizes, from ten times the mass of a standard world to thousands of times that. Their moons are more likely to draw interest than the gas giant itself, though the radiation belts of gas giants can pose a significant hazard. The largest gas giants grow increasingly dense, eventually reaching the point where they ignite helium fusion in their cores, and become brown dwarf stars.

Units

Before we can really talk in detail about exoplanets we need to have an understanding of units we use for Density, Temperature, and Planetary Mass.

The Average Density of a Planet is of course roughly a planets mass divided by the Approximate Volume it would have if it was a perfect sphere. Density is measure either in units of kg/m^3 or g/cm^3 . One kg/m^3 equals 1000 g/cm^3 .

The Average Surface Temperature of a planet is measured in either degrees Celsius or degrees Kelvin.

The conversion from Celsius to Kelvin is simple as $0\text{ C} = 273.15\text{ K}$.

The Planetary Mass like all masses is first and foremost measured in units of kilograms. However, most planets then to have masses on order of 10^{24} or 10^{27} , therefore to make thing more manageable, we use the units of 🌍 [Earth_Mass](#) (ME) and 🌌 [Jupiter_mass](#) (MJ), which are based on the Mass of Earth and Jupiter. Generally Jupiter is 317.8 time more massive than Earth ($1\text{ MJ} = 317.83\text{ ME}$), so one normally uses Earth Mass for Terrestrial Planets and Jupiter Masses for Gas Giants. Compared to the sun; however, Jupiter is very small, in fact 1 Sol or 🌞 [Solar_Mass](#) 1048 time 1 MJ. The table below highlights conversions between various mass units

Mass Unit	Symbol	Conversion to kg	Conversion to ME	Conversion to MJ	Conversion to Sol
1 Earth Mass	1 ME	5.98 E24 kg	1 ME	1/(317.83) MJ	1/(332,775.92) Sol
1 Jupiter Mass	1 MJ	1.8986 E27 kg	317.83 ME	1 MJ	1/(1048.14) Sol
1 Solar Mass	1 Sol	1.99 E30 kg	332,775.92 ME	1,048.14 MJ	1 Sol

Terrestrials

Super Earths vs. other Terrestrials

1. Def of 🌍 [Super-Earth](#) (Mass Range of 1.5 ME to 10 ME)
2. Def of 🌌 [Dwarf Planet](#) (Mass Range less than 1/80 ME)

Silicate Planets

General Silicate Planet

1. Def of [Silicate planet](#)
2. terrestrial planet with a silicon mantle and typically and iron core

Examples: Earth, Iroma, Mars.... etc.

Core-less Planets

1. 🌌 [Coreless planet](#)
2. planet with a silicon crust but completely lacking in a magnetic iron core, meaning it lack at magnetic field

Coreless Lava Worlds

Examples: Venus

Coreless Rocky Deserts

Examples: Moon and most other planet barren moons

Habitable Earth-like Planets

Examples: Earth

Suggestions?

* [Hanako's World](#)

Forest Planets

Suggestions?

Swamp Planets

Suggestions?

Ice Rock and Ice Planets

Examples: Europa, Pluto?

1. cryovolanic ocean worlds is a subcategory of this...

Rocky Desert and Desert Planets

Examples: Mars

1. If no atmosphere is very soft landing
2. Many are prone to violent storms
3. May have flash flooding

Iron Planets

General Iron Planets

1. 🌍 [Iron planet](#)

Desert Rock Worlds

Examples: Mercury

Ice Rock Worlds

Examples: Ceres

Carbon Worlds

General Carbon Worlds

1. 🌍 [Carbon_planet](#)

Example: Titan

"Swamp"

Cryovolcanic

Example: Pluto?

Ice

Examples: Moons of Uranus and Neptune

Terrestrial Ocean

🌍 [Ocean_planet](#) Ocean planets; however, tend to cross over also more into other categories. Except for a handful or silicon ocean planets that will be covered. Although Theoretically possible no carbon-silicate ocean worlds have been seen

General Ocean World

Cryovolcanic Silicate Ocean Worlds

1. underground oceans that serve as a mantle of the planet.

Example: Ganymede

Super Earth Silicate Ocean Worlds

Carbon Ocean Worlds

Example Titan

Small Gas Giants

Mass:	.13 - .30 MJ (12 - 96 ME)
Density	250 - 2,000 kg/m ³

Cold Neptune

Semi-major Axis	> 1 AU
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Examples: Neptune and Uranus

Hot Neptune

Semi-major Axis	< 1 AU
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- 🌐 [Hot Neptune](#)

Chitonians

Example: Corot-7b

Large Gas Giants

Jupiter-like Gas Giants

1. 🌐 [Gas giant](#)

Example: Saturn and Jupiter

Hot Jupiter

Mass	1 - 25 MJ
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- 🌌 [Hot_Jupiter](#)

Non-standard Planet Types

Some planets do not fit into the general pattern, resulting from extraordinary cosmic events or works of artifice.

Artificial Planets

1. Constructed worlds from an ancient era of much higher technology, these mega-structures can take many forms, such as rings and helices, or hollow cylinders and spheres containing atmosphere and artificial gravity. They often have far more living space than a naturally-formed world with a livable surface. These are extremely rare.

Pulsar Planets

1. 🌌 [Pulsar_Planet](#)
2. Generally little is known about the exact composition of these planets as they are planetary core remnants that have survived supernovas, still orbiting their parent star. It can be certain that they are not habitable, and they can be dangerous, depending how far they are from their pulsar.

Rogue Planet

1. A rogue planet is a planet without a star, and as such they tend to be very, very, very cold, with no source of heat other than gravitational contraction and radioactive decay. They are difficult to detect, often uncharted, and can make good hideouts for those lucky enough to find them. Rogue planets form around stars, but can be ejected by any number of means, most often a close encounter with an erratically orbiting gas giant, or another star.

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