

Moons of Uranus Jan 11, 1787

Titania is the largest of the [moons of Uranus](#) and the [eighth largest moon](#) in the [Solar System](#) at a diameter of 1,578 kilometres (981 mi). Discovered by [William Herschel](#) in 1787, Titania is named after the [queen of the fairies](#) in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Its orbit lies inside [Uranus's magnetosphere](#).

Titania consists of approximately equal amounts of ice and [rock](#), and is probably differentiated into a rocky [core](#) and an icy [mantle](#). A layer of liquid water may be present at the [core–mantle boundary](#).

Oberon, also designated **Uranus IV**, is the outermost major [moon](#) of the planet [Uranus](#). It is the second-largest and second most massive of the Uranian moons, and the ninth most massive moon in the [Solar System](#). Discovered by [William Herschel](#) in 1787, Oberon is named after the [mythical king of the fairies](#) who appears as a character in *Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Its orbit lies partially outside Uranus's [magnetosphere](#).

First Light -- Feb19, 1787

[William Herschel's 40-foot telescope](#), also known as the **Great Forty-Foot** telescope, was a [reflecting telescope](#) constructed between 1785 and 1789 at [Observatory House](#) in [Slough](#), England. It used a 120-centimetre (47 in) diameter [primary mirror](#) with a 12-metre-long (1,200 cm) [focal length](#) (hence its name "Forty-Foot"). It was the largest telescope in the world for 50 years. It may have been used to discover [Enceladus](#) and [Mimas](#), the 6th and 7th [moons of Saturn](#). It was dismantled in 1840; today the original mirror and a 10-foot (3.0 m) section of the tube remain.

First professional lady astronomer

- [Caroline Herschel](#) is granted an annual salary of £50 by King [George III of Great Britain](#) for acting as assistant to her brother William in astronomy.^[1]

Medicine

[Spanish physician](#) Francisco Xavier Cid publishes *Tarantismo Observado en España*, a study of [tarantulas](#) and the [tarantella](#) as a cure for their bite.

Lycosa tarantula is the species originally known as the **tarantula**, a name that nowadays commonly refers to spiders in another family entirely, [Theraphosidae](#). It now may be better called the **tarantula wolf spider**, being in the [wolf spider](#) family, the Lycosidae. *Lycosa tarantula* is a large species found in southern Europe, especially in the [Apulia](#) region of [Italy](#) and near the city of [Taranto](#), from which it gets its name.^[1] Historical superstition has it that the spider's bite can produce severe symptoms called [tarantism](#).

Tarantism is a form of [hysterical](#) behaviour, popularly believed to result from the bite of the [wolf spider](#) [Lycosa tarantula](#) (distinct from the broad class of spiders also

called [tarantulas](#)). A better candidate cause is [Latrodectus tredecimguttatus](#), commonly known as the Mediterranean black widow or steppe spider, although no link between such bites and the behaviour of tarantism has ever been demonstrated.^[1] However, the term historically is used to refer to a [dancing mania](#) - characteristic of Southern Italy - which likely had little to do with spider bites. The [tarantella](#) dance supposedly evolved from this [therapy](#).

It was originally described in the 11th century.^[2] The condition was common in southern [Italy](#) during the 16th and 17th centuries. There were strong suggestions that there is no organic cause for the heightened excitability and [restlessness](#) that gripped the victims. The stated belief of the time was that victims needed to engage in frenzied [dancing](#) to prevent [death](#) from tarantism. Supposedly a particular kind of dance, called the [tarantella](#), evolved from this [therapy](#). A prime location for such outbursts was the church at [Galatina](#), particularly at the time of the [Feast of Saints Peter and Paul](#) on 29 June.^[3] "The dancing is placed under the sign of [Saint Paul](#), whose chapel serves as a "theater" for the tarantulees' public meetings. The spider seems constantly interchangeable with Saint Paul; the female tarantulees dress as "brides of Saint Paul".^[4]

As a climax, "the tarantulees, after having danced for a long time, meet together in the chapel of Saint Paul and communally attain the paroxysm of their trance, ... the general and desperate agitation was dominated by the stylized cry of the tarantulees, the 'crisis cry', an ahiii uttered with various modulations".^[5]

May 25 – Sept 17, 1787

The **Constitutional Convention**^{[1]:31} (also known as the **Philadelphia Convention**,^{[1]:31} the **Federal Convention**,^{[1]:31} or the **Grand Convention at Philadelphia**^{[2][3]}) took place from May 25 to September 17, 1787, in [Philadelphia, Pennsylvania](#). Although the Convention was intended to revise the [Articles of Confederation](#), the intention from the outset of many of its proponents, chief among them [James Madison](#) and [Alexander Hamilton](#), was to create a new government rather than fix the existing one. The delegates elected [George Washington](#) to preside over the Convention. The result of the Convention was the creation of the [United States Constitution](#), placing the Convention among the most significant events in the [history of the United States](#).