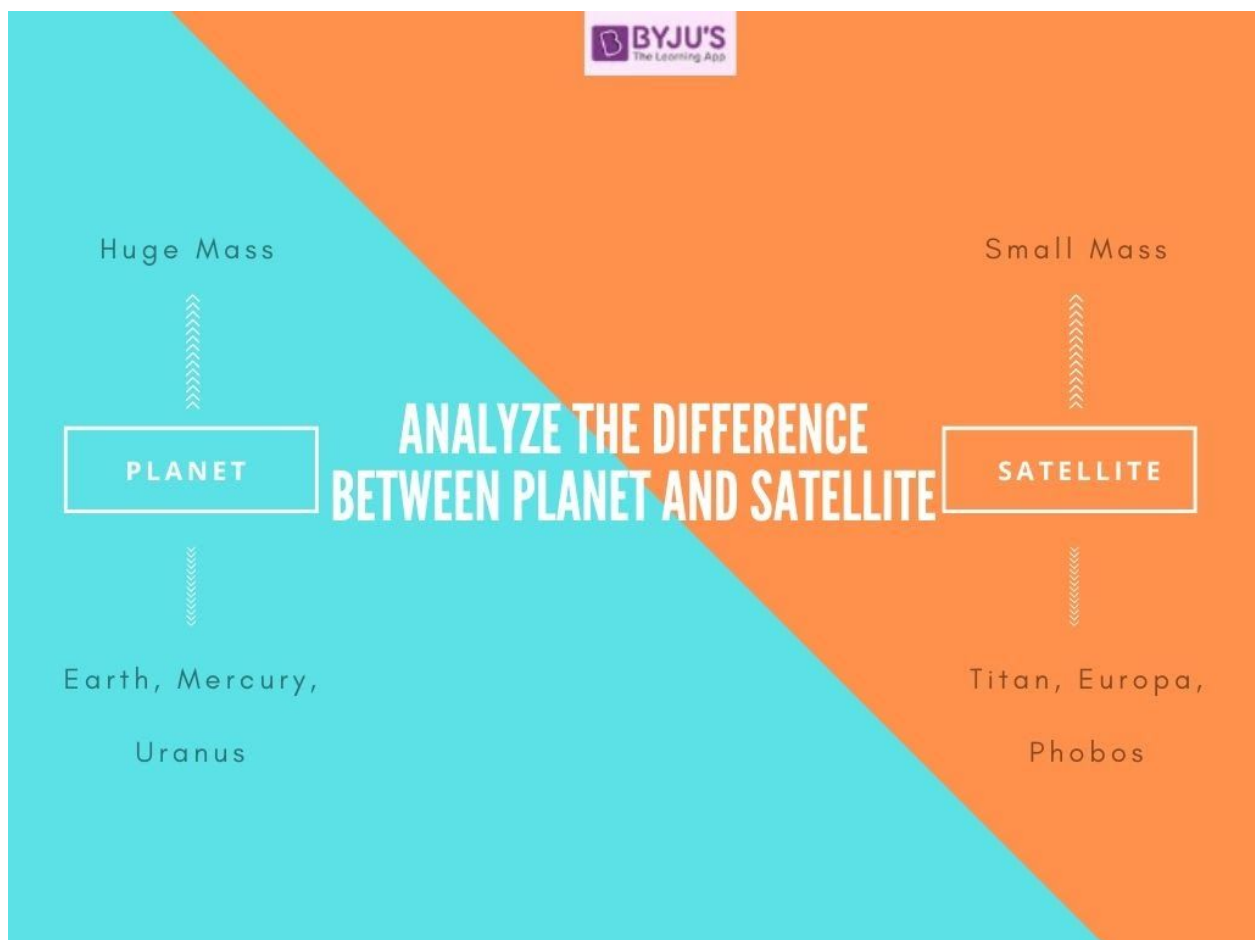


# Difference Between Planet and Satellite

Planet and Satellites are two astronomical bodies with many fundamental differences between them

For starters, a planet is a body orbiting a star that is big enough to be rounded by its own gravity, not massive to cause a thermonuclear reaction.

A satellite is an object in space that orbits or circles around a larger object. Out of this there are two types of satellites: Natural and Artificial Satellite.



This article will further highlight the differences between Planet and Satellite within the context of the [IAS Exam](#).

**Differences between Planet and Satellite**

| Planet   | Satellite  |
|--|--|
| As per modern definitions, any astronomical body orbiting a star can be classified as a planet   | Satellites both natural and artificial, orbit relatively close to planets or any other celestial body with a relatively bigger mass.                                 |
| The axial tilt of the planet is based on the angle to the plane of their star's equators. This causes the amount of light received in the hemisphere to vary throughout its span of rotation | Satellites orbiting relatively close to the planets on uninclined circular orbits are thought to have been formed out of a collision between two astronomical bodies |
| The term 'planet' is derived from the Greek word "planan" meaning "to wander".   | The term 'satellite' is derived from the Latin word ' <i>satelles</i> ' meaning "to follow" or "to attend to"  |
| Planets rotate around the invisible axes through their centres. Most of the planets in the solar system orbit the sun  | Natural Satellites in the Solar System are tidally locked to their respective planet, meaning that the same side of the natural satellite always faces its planet.   |
| A defining characteristic of a planet is that it has such a huge mass that it has its own gravity to bind the electromagnetic forces binding its physical structure                          | The mass of satellites will always be smaller from that of planets and they will be reliant upon the planet's gravity for it to orbit.                               |
| Examples of planets are Earth, Jupiter, Saturn etc.  | Examples of satellites are the Moon orbiting the Earth, Titan orbiting Saturn and Europa orbiting Jupiter  |

