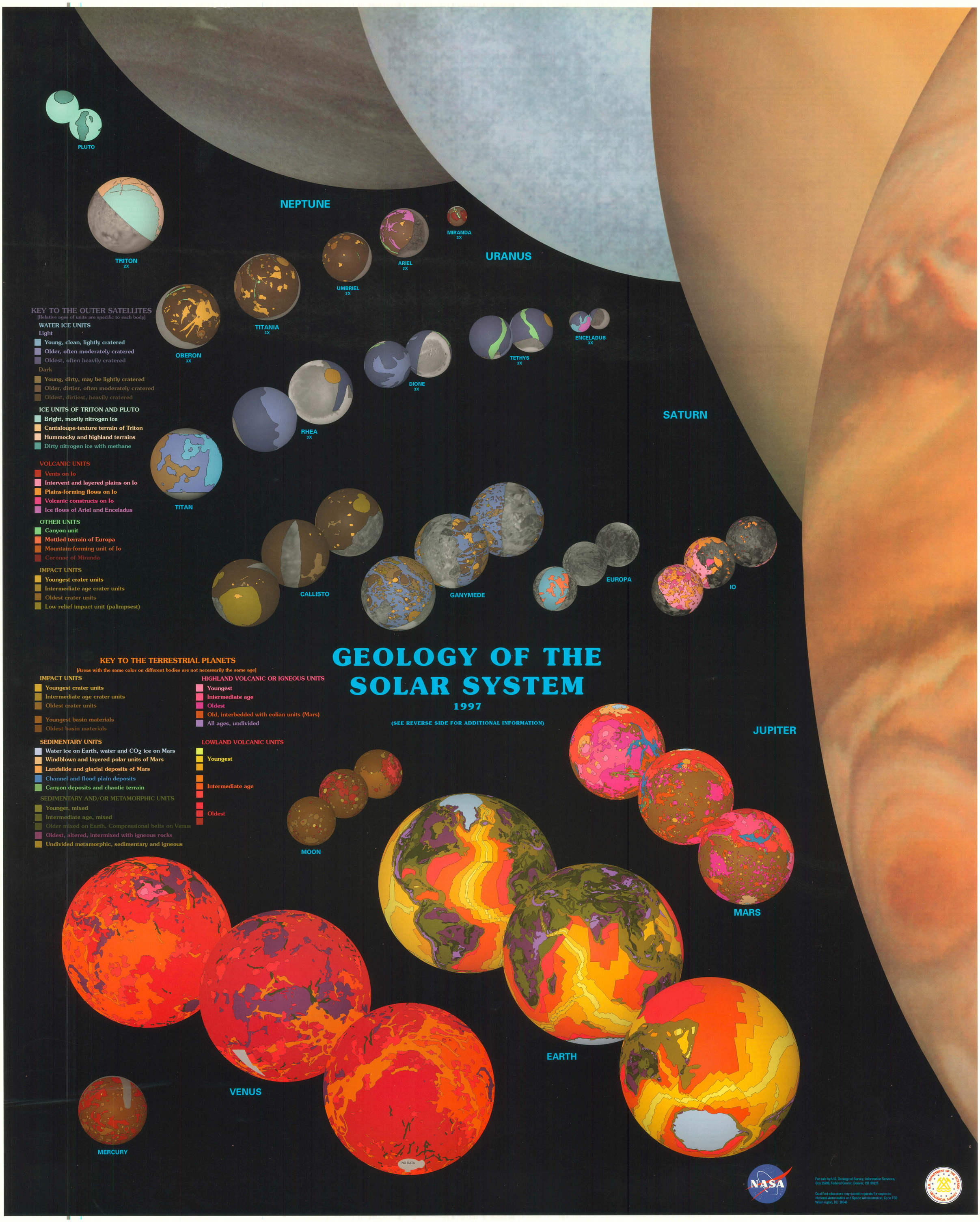
GEOLOGY OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM

1997

(SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION)



KEY TO THE OUTER SATELLITES

[Relative ages of units are specific to each body]

WATER ICE UNITS

Light
- Young, clean, lightly cratered
- Older, often moderately cratered
- Oldest, often heavily cratered

Dark
- Young, dirty, may be lightly cratered
- Older, dirtier, often moderately cratered
- Oldest, dirtiest, heavily cratered

ICE UNITS OF TRITON AND PLUTO
- Bright, mostly nitrogen ice
- Cantaloupe-texture terrain of Triton
- Hummocky and highland terrains
- Dirty nitrogen ice with methane

VOLCANIC UNITS
- Vents on Io
- Intervent and layered plains on Io
- Plains-forming flows on Io
- Volcanic constructs on Io
- Ice flows of Ariel and Enceladus

OTHER UNITS
- Canyon unit
- Mottled terrain of Europa
- Mountain-forming unit of Io
- Coronae of Miranda

IMPACT UNITS
- Youngest crater units
- Intermediate age crater units
- Oldest crater units
- Low relief impact unit (palimpsest)

KEY TO THE TERRESTRIAL PLANETS

[Areas with the same color on different bodies are not necessarily the same age]

IMPACT UNITS
- Youngest crater units
- Intermediate age crater units
- Oldest crater units
- Youngest basin materials
- Oldest basin materials

SEDIMENTARY UNITS
- Water ice on Earth, water and CO_2 ice on Mars
- Windblown and layered polar units of Mars
- Landslide and glacial deposits of Mars
- Channel and flood plain deposits
- Canyon deposits and chaotic terrain

SEDIMENTARY AND/OR METAMORPHIC UNITS
- Younger, mixed
- Intermediate age, mixed
- Older mixed on Earth. Compressional belts on Venus
- Oldest, altered, intermixed with igneous rocks
- Undivided metamorphic, sedimentary and igneous

HIGHLAND VOLCANIC OR IGNEOUS UNITS
- Youngest
- Intermediate age
- Oldest
- Old, interbedded with eolian units (Mars)
- All ages, undivided

LOWLAND VOLCANIC UNITS
- Youngest
- Intermediate age
- Oldest

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