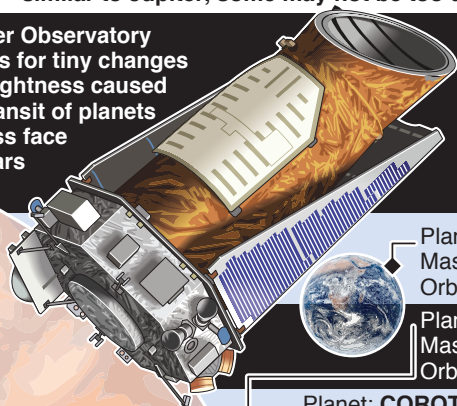
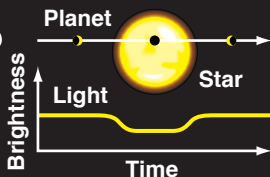


Searching for extrasolar “super-Earths”

Space telescope Kepler – launched last year to search for Earth-like planets outside our solar system – has discovered more than 700 candidates. Although most “super-Earths” found so far are giants more similar to Jupiter, some may not be too different from Earth

Kepler Observatory
Looks for tiny changes
in brightness caused
by transit of planets
across face
of stars



Planet: **EARTH**
Mass: **1 Earth mass**
Orbital period: **365 days**

Planet: **JUPITER**
Mass: **318 times Earth**
Orbital period: **11.8 years**

Jupiter: “Gas giant”
with mass 2.5 times
more than all other
planets in our
Solar System

Planet: **COROT-7b**
Mass: **4.8 times Earth**
Orbital period: **20 hours**

Planet: **GJ1214b**
Mass: **6.55 times Earth**
Orbital period: **38 hours**

Planet: **HD149026b**
Mass: **0.36 times
mass of Jupiter**
Orbital period:
69 hours

Planet: **Osiris HD209458b**
Mass: **0.69 times Jupiter**
Orbital period: **3.5 days**