



At the end of these Night Sky activities students will understand:

- Jupiter is the largest planet in the Solar System
- It is a very different type of planet from Earth
- It does not have a solid surface
- The Great Red Spot is a major storm in its atmosphere
- Of at least 95 moons, the four largest were discovered by Galileo

Astronomy background information

Jupiter, largest planet in the Solar System has a diameter about 11 times that of Earth and a mass about 318 times that of Earth. It is a gas giant planet composed mainly of hydrogen and helium. New data from the Juno spacecraft indicates it has a large and fuzzy core of mixed rock, metal and hydrogen. This core is surrounded by a thick layer of hydrogen in a metallic form that does not exist naturally on Earth. Above this is a deep atmosphere of hydrogen and helium.

When we look at Jupiter we see streaks of brownish ammonia clouds at the top of the atmosphere. Large oval storms appear in its atmosphere and these can last for years. Largest of these is the Great Red Spot which was first seen in the 1600s.

Jupiter has at least 95 moons. Most of these are only a few miles across, but the four largest moons of Jupiter, called the “Galilean satellites” are similar in size to our own moon. Galileo Galilei was the first astronomer to observe Jupiter with a telescope discovering the moons in 1610.

Night Sky App Essential Settings

Go to Night Sky Settings  and make sure the following Preferences are set.

Turn On these Effects:

Environment Based Horizons

Turn Off these Effects:

Show Satellites
Day Time Effect
Real Sky Representation
Show Glass Mythology
Show Constellation Lines

Accessible Learning:

- Text size can be increased in the Preferences section
- Star numbers can be reduced by sliding two fingers down the screen

