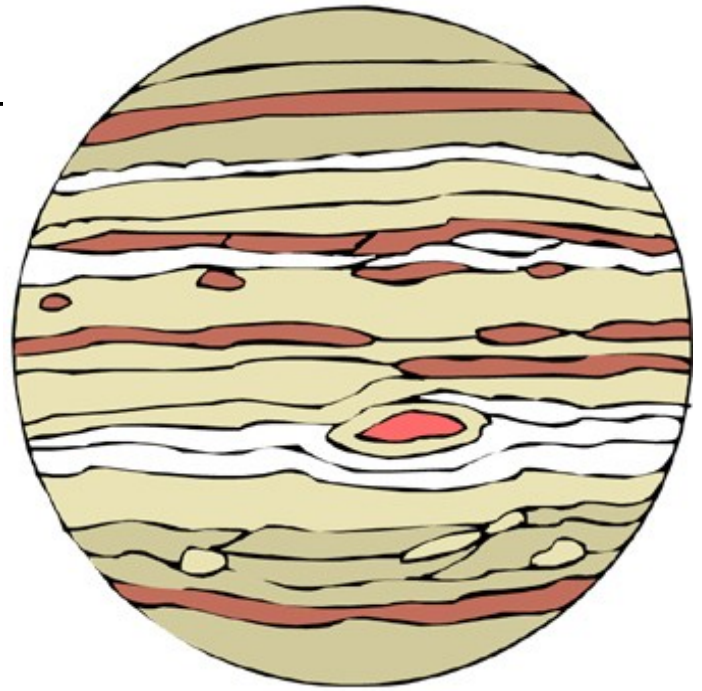


Name: _____

Jupiter

by Cynthia Sherwood



If Jupiter were a person, it might run around chanting "I'm number one! I'm number one!" That's because Jupiter is the largest planet in our solar system and the one that spins the fastest. It also has the most moons of any planet and the largest

moon. Jupiter also has the strongest gravity of all the planets. Ancient astronomers knew what they were doing when they named Jupiter after the Roman king of the gods.

It would take
very fast. It rc
Jupiter takes



~ PREVIEW ~

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Jupiter isn't fi

piter moves
s 24 hours.

object in the night sky, behind the moon and Venus.

brightest

Jupiter is one of the gas giants. Its surface is made of thick red, brown, yellow, and white clouds. One huge area of that surface is called the "Great Red Spot." That's where a storm three times bigger than Earth has raged for more than 300 years! Imagine winds stronger than a hurricane lasting for centuries.

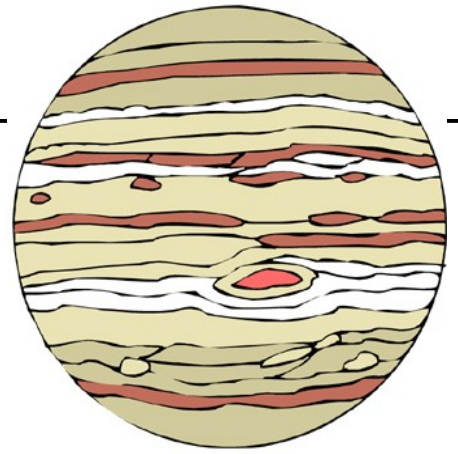
Jupiter has at least 63 moons. Most are fairly small, but four are quite large. They were first discovered by the astronomer Galileo in the year 1610 using one of the earliest telescopes. The largest of Jupiter's moons is named Ganymede. It's even bigger than the planet Mercury!

Six space probes have traveled to Jupiter, so scientists have a lot of information about the planet. You can do your own study of Jupiter just by staring at the night sky. If you see a really bright star that's high in the sky, you're probably seeing Jupiter, the number one planet.

Name: _____

Jupiter

by Cynthia Sherwood



1. Tell whether each statement is true or false.

_____ Jupiter is the largest planet in our solar system.

_____ Jupiter spins faster than any other planet.

_____ Jupiter is the closest planet to the sun.



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2. What is _____

3. How long does it take Jupiter to travel around the sun?

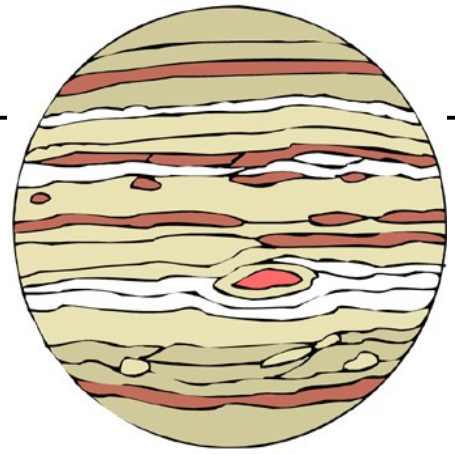
4. How long does it take Jupiter to rotate around on its axis?

Challenge: How many years ago did Galileo discover Jupiter's moons? Use your Math skills!

ANSWER KEY

Jupiter

by Cynthia Sherwood



1. Tell whether each statement is true or false.

true Jupiter is the largest planet in our solar system.

true Jupiter spins faster than any other planet.

false Jupiter is the closest planet to the sun.

false J

false J



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the printable version of this worksheet.

2. What is

An ancient wind storm that is three times bigger than Earth.

3. How long does it take Jupiter to travel around the sun?

twelve years

4. How long does it take Jupiter to rotate around on its axis?

ten hours

Challenge: How many years ago did Galileo discover Jupiter's moons? Use your Math skills!

Subtract 1610 from the current year to find the answer.