

JUPITER



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Jupiter is the fifth planet from the Sun and the largest planet within the Solar System. It is two and a half times as massive as all of the other planets in our Solar System combined.

The planet was known by astronomers of ancient times and was associated with the mythology and religious beliefs of many cultures. The Romans named the planet after the Roman god Jupiter.

When viewed from Earth, Jupiter can be the third brightest object in the night sky after the Moon and Venus.

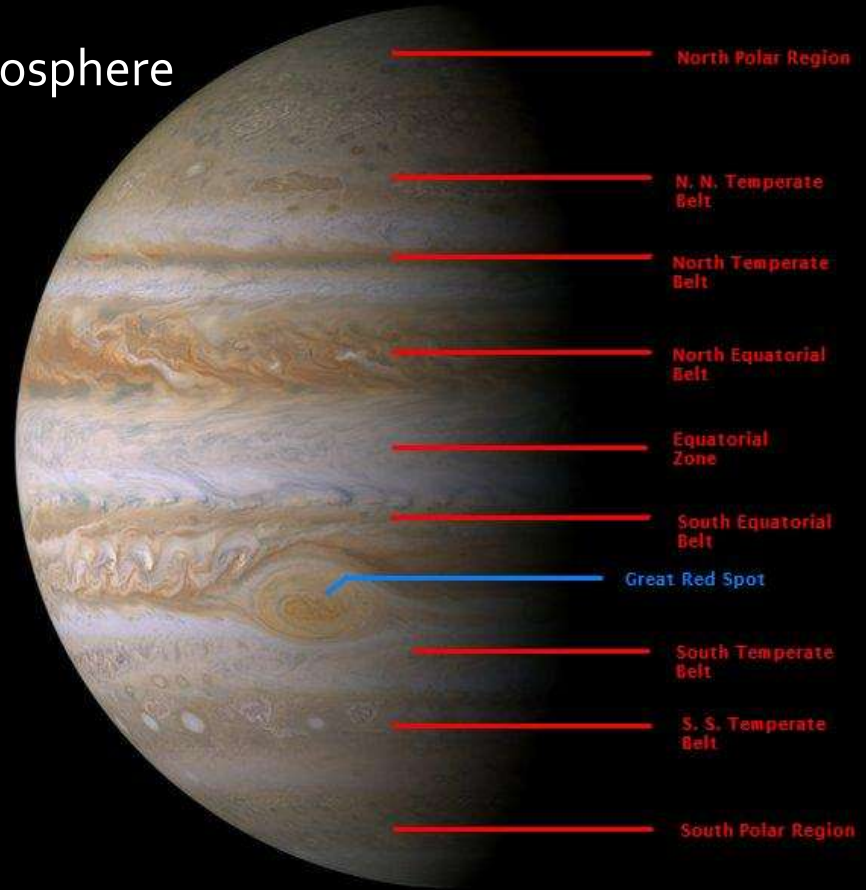
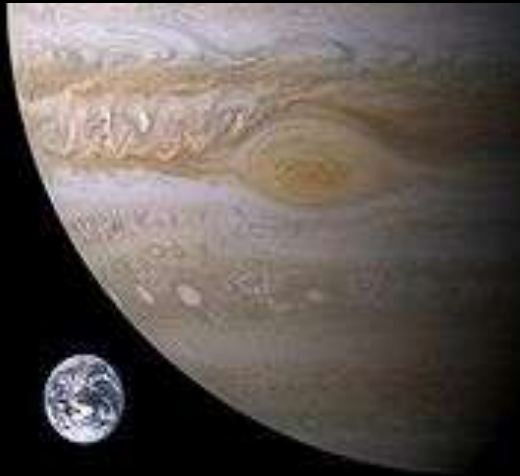
The planet Jupiter is primarily composed of hydrogen with a small proportion of helium; it may also have a rocky core of heavier elements under high pressure. Because of its rapid rotation, Jupiter's shape is that of an oblate spheroid. The outer atmosphere is visibly segregated into several bands at different latitudes. A prominent result is the Great Red Spot, a persistent anticyclonic vortex on the south border of the South Equatorial belt that is known to have existed since at least the 17th century.

Surrounding the planet is a faint planetary ring system and a powerful magnetosphere.

There are also at least 63 moons, including the four large moons called the Galilean moons that were first discovered by Galileo Galilei in 1610.

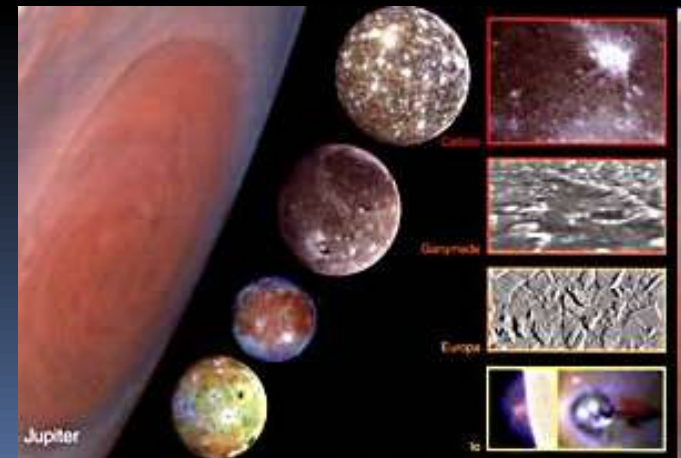
Jupiter's atmosphere

Great Red Spot



Jupiter's Internal structure

Galilean moons



Questions...

1. What is Jupiter named after?
2. What is Jupiter composed of?
3. Which part of Jupiter is the Great Red Spot?
4. Who discovered Jupiter's moons?

