

Name: _____
Date: _____

Subject: Themes
Sheet: Solar system

Jupiter

Jupiter is the fifth planet from the sun and is the largest planet in the solar system. This large gas giant is surrounded by belts of swirling gas clouds. Jupiter is made up of hydrogen and helium. Jupiter's 'Great Red Spot' is a huge storm made up of hurricane winds that has lasted since the 17th century!

This massive spot is large enough to hold two or three planets the size of Earth.

Jupiter has three very faint rings that are only visible when it passes in front of the sun. The rings are called Gossamer, Main, and Halo. Jupiter also has many moons. The four largest ones are called the Galilean moons and were discovered by Galileo Galilei in 1610. They are named Io, Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto. Ganymede is the largest moon in the solar system.

The first visit to this enormous planet was made in 1973 by the Pioneer 10 spacecraft.

It takes Jupiter almost 12 Earth years to orbit the sun.

In Greek mythology, Jupiter is known as Zeus, ruler of the Greek Gods.

