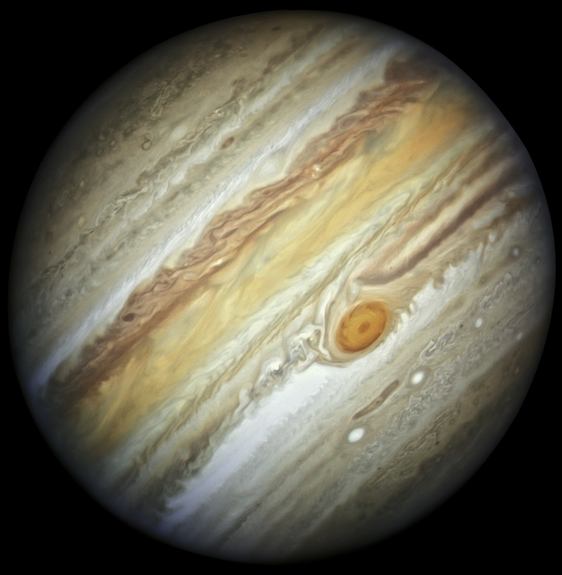

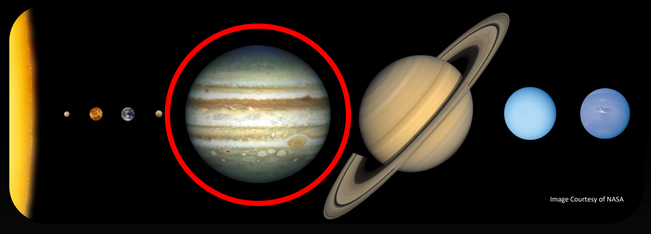

Image Courtesy of NASA

Jupiter

Gas Giant

Year = 12 Earth Years
Day = 10 Earth Hours
11 times the size of Earth
Radius = 43,440 miles
484 million miles from Sun
Gravity = 81.3 ft/s^2

When Galileo used his newly invented telescope to study Jupiter in 1610, he discovered moons orbiting the planet. This helped end the incorrect belief that everything in our solar system orbited the Earth.

Image Courtesy of NASA

Nine spacecraft have closely studied Jupiter. Currently Juno is orbiting the planet and is the first spacecraft to study the interior, exploring the gravity field, magnetic field, and the planet's composition. Juno is powered using three solar arrays to harness the Sun's energy.

Jupiter is the fifth planet from the Sun and is much larger than the first four planets. In fact, Jupiter is twice as massive as all the other planets combined. The planet is composed mostly of hydrogen and helium, gasses in the outer atmosphere, but condensed into liquid the deeper you go. This forms the largest ocean in our solar system. Scientists don't yet know if deeper towards the planet's center there is a solid core or just a thick, hot soup.

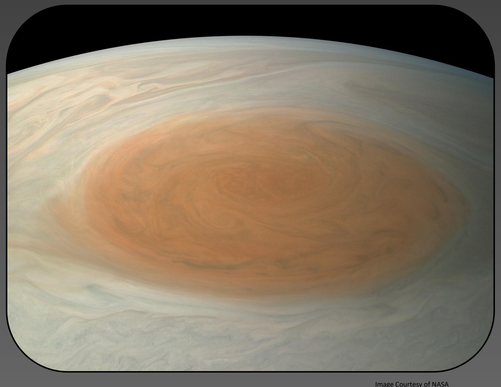

Image Courtesy of NASA

Jupiter's iconic red spot is really a gigantic storm that has been spinning for hundreds of years. While the swirling mass of clouds looks small on Jupiter it is really twice the width of Earth! Italian astronomer Giovanni Cassini observed spots and colorful bands on Jupiter and, along with Robert Hooke, is credited with discovering and describing the great red spot.

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