

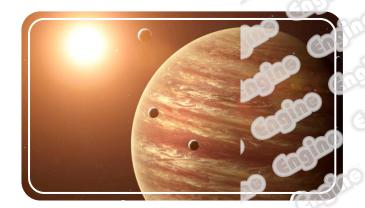


What we will learn

"Jupiter", also known as "Father of Thunder", was the king of the ancient Roman gods. He used to live on the skies and used thunders as a weapon against his enemies. Therefore, planet Jupiter gets its name after this godness, as it is the largest and heaviest planet of our solar system. Jupiter is the king of the other planets, a giant planet with shiny coloured clouds. Jupiter is the fifth planet from the Sun and it has many moons orbiting around it. It takes 11 Earth hours to make a complete circle. Do you know the characteristics of planet Jupiter? Are you familiar with Jupiter's life? Read through the pages of the booklet of "Astrophysics: Jupiter" to gain useful information and amazing facts about this planet. Follow the building instructions, contained in this booklet, to build your own Jupiter robot. Finally, take the quiz to test your newly acquired knowledge.



Jupiter, the King of the Planets



Jupiter characteristics

Jupiter is the king of planets. In addition, it is more than twice as massive as all the other planets together. In fact, its large volume can fit up to 1.300 Earth sized planets. It is a gas giant planet, made mostly of hydrogen and helium. It is covered by brightly, twisting cloud belts and zones. Jupiter has three rings, which are too thin to be visible. More than 60 moons orbit around it including Ganymede, the largest one.

Jupiter's spot

The most amazing feature on Jupiter is the great "Red Spot". It was first seen in the 17th century when telescopes started to be used. This spot is essentially a hurricane undergoing on the atmosphere of Jupiter for more than 350 years. It is whirling around its center every six Earth days! The Great spot's size is at least three times the size of Earth. The colour of the storm is mainly red, but varies due to the composition of the spot.





Jupiter's life

Jupiter was the sixth child of the Titan gods Saturn and Ops. His father was worried about his children's power and decided to swallow them. However, Ops hid Jupiter from her husband. As soon as Jupiter grew up, he rescued his five brothers and sisters. Then, he became the ruler of the world! He got married to his sister Juno, however he had a lot of children with different women. Some of them were Gods while others were demigods, such as Hercules.



In 1610, the Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei used his telescope to discover that Jupiter had four large moons orbiting around. His discovery overturned our understanding about the bodies in our solar system. Galileo concluded that the Sun is the center of the Universe, not the Earth. Today, the four moons called Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto are called the "Galileans moons".



The "Galilean moons" of Jupiter





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