



Name _____

Date _____

JUPITER

Jupiter is the biggest planet in our solar system. It is 1,000 times larger than the planet Earth. That is pretty big! Jupiter is bigger than all the other planets combined. Jupiter is described as a big ball of gas. That is because it is made up mostly of gases. Jupiter is mostly hydrogen with a little helium.

We see mostly the outer layer of clouds when we look at Jupiter. Gas planets do not have a solid surface. The inner core of Jupiter is rocky and solid. Jupiter is the fourth-brightest object in the sky. People have been seeing Jupiter in the night sky for many years.

Many years ago, people thought Jupiter was a “bright, wandering star.” A man named Galileo developed the telescope. The telescope helped him see Jupiter’s four large moons. This observation helped Galileo realize that Earth was not the center of the universe.

The great red spot on Jupiter has been seen for over 300 years. This spot is big enough to hold two Earths. Jupiter also has rings. They are made up of particles of rocky materials. The rings are dark in color. Jupiter is the fifth planet from the sun.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What would be the best title for this passage?
 - a. “Jupiter: The Largest Planet”
 - b. “Outer Planets”
 - c. “Cool Planets”
 - d. “Planets with Moons”
2. Which of the following is not a fact about the planet Jupiter?
 - a. Jupiter is the largest planet.
 - b. Jupiter is one of the outer planets.
 - c. Jupiter has a great red spot.
 - d. Jupiter does not have rings like Saturn.
3. What was meant by the “bright, wandering star?”
 - a. Jupiter was at first a star that moved across the sky at night.
 - b. Jupiter couldn’t be found in the night sky.
 - c. Jupiter was located in a star’s position.
 - d. Jupiter was first thought to be a star that moved in the night sky.
4. How did the telescope change what people thought about Jupiter?
 - a. Jupiter was the first planet viewed through a telescope.
 - b. Galileo discovered that Jupiter had moons.
 - c. It was determined that Jupiter was not located in a star’s position.
 - d. Jupiter was discovered to be the center of the universe.