

Life on Jupiter's Icy Moon

Jupiter is the (0) ***largest*** planet in our solar system. It (1) _____ up of many different kinds of gases. It is (2) _____ big that 1,300 Earths (3) _____ fit inside Jupiter! It also has 63 moons. Some of (4) _____ moons are like small planets, and (5) _____ are pieces of frozen rock and ice. Studying Jupiter's moons has helped scientists (6) _____ more about the solar system. But the moon that scientists (7) _____ in most is Europa.

The conditions on Europa (8) _____ it the most likely place in the solar system, (9) _____ Earth, to have life. It (10) _____ in a layer of ice, and some scientists believe a liquid ocean lies (11) _____ the icy surface. If this is true, Europa may have simple forms of life in (12) _____ oceans. The creatures on Europa would probably be (13) _____ to see without a microscope. But the idea of (14) _____ at all living on Europa is very exciting.

Right now, we cannot (15) _____ Europa because it is too cold and too far away to send people (16) _____. The spacecrafts and robots we have are not (17) _____ to land on the surface. But scientists have big plans. In the future, they hope to send one robot to melt some of the ice on Europa's surface, and (18) _____ robot to swim through its oceans. (19) _____ information that these robots gather could change what we (20) _____ about life on Earth.