

Jupiter King of the Planets

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

Jupiter is the fifth planet from our Sun. It is named for the king of ancient Roman gods. It is the biggest planet in our solar system. More than 1,300 Earths could fit inside.

WHAT IS IT LIKE ON JUPITER?

This is not a nice place to visit. It is a giant ball of gas. There is nowhere to land. Any spacecraft—or person—passing through the colorful clouds gets crushed and melted. Remember how your head feels squeezed when you dive into the deep end of a pool? That is pressure. On Jupiter, the pressure is so strong it squishes gas into liquid. Jupiter's atmosphere can crush a metal spaceship like a paper cup.

Jupiter's stripes and swirls are cold, windy clouds of ammonia and water. Jupiter's Great Red Spot is a giant storm as wide as three Earths. This storm has lasted hundreds of years. Jupiter's atmosphere is poisonous. It is mostly hydrogen and helium. There is dangerous radiation, too. It gets very hot and very cold. Talk about bad weather.

Scientists think Jupiter's core may be a thick, super hot soup. It might be up to 50,000° F down there.

Jupiter has its own "mini solar system" of 49 moons. Scientists are most interested in the Galilean satellites—the four largest moons discovered by Galileo Galilei in 1610. Europa may have an ocean under its cold frozen surface. Calisto's crater-pocked landscape may be the oldest in the solar system. Ganymede is the solar system's largest moon. It is bigger than Pluto and Mercury. Io has more volcanoes than anywhere else in the solar system.

Jupiter also has three rings, but they are very hard to see and not nearly as pretty as Saturn's

1. Jupiter is the fifth planet from the sun and
 - a. was discovered by Giovanni Cassini.
 - b. the biggest planet in our solar system.
 - c. was named after a Greek god.

- d. has three hundred rings.
2. How many Earths could fit inside Jupiter?
 - a. less than 1,000
 - b. about 130
 - c. more than 1,300
 - d. less than 500
 3. What year did Galileo Galilei discover the four largest moons of Jupiter?
 - a. 1610
 - b. 1016
 - c. 1690
 - d. none of the above
 4. Jupiter's Great Red Spot is
 - a. a large freckle.
 - b. an erupting volcano.
 - c. a raging fire.
 - d. a giant storm.
 5. How many rings does Jupiter have?
 - a. three
 - b. thirteen
 - c. thirty
 - d. none of the above
 6. Jupiter would not be a good place to live because
 - a. there are no schools on Jupiter.

- b. they only serve soup on Jupiter.
- c. it is too far away from the Sun.
- d. there is too much pressure on Jupiter and the atmosphere is poisonous.