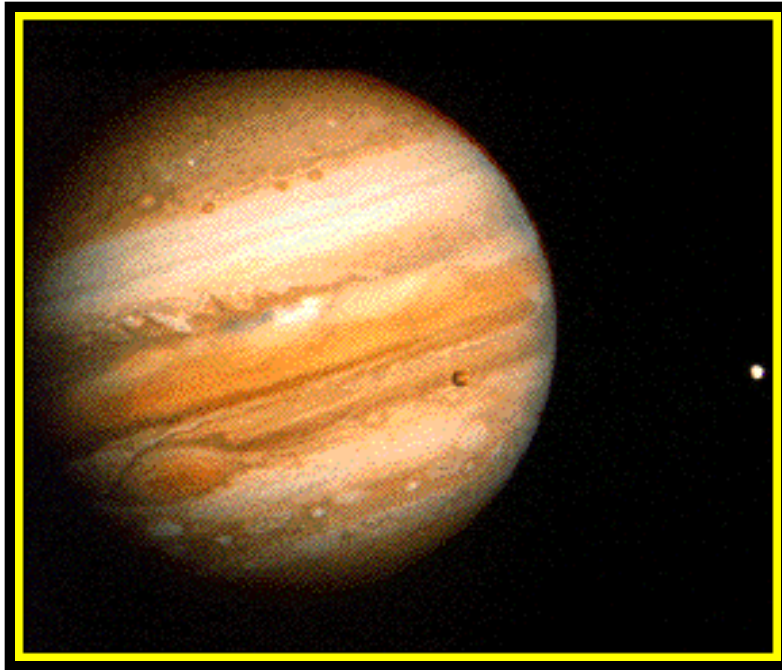


JUPITER

Jupiter is the fifth planet from the sun. It is by far the largest planet in our solar system. It would take



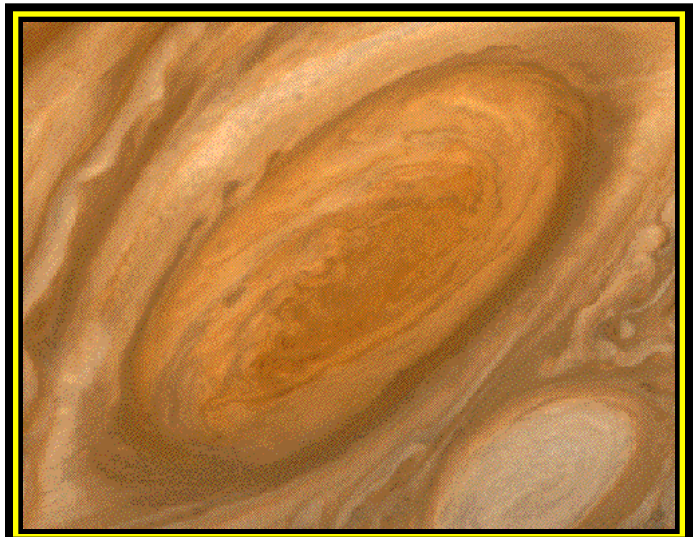
1,317 Earths to match Jupiter's size. But it would still take 1,000 Jupiter's to fill the sun! Had Jupiter been 3 or 4 times larger, it might have become a star.

Jupiter rotates very fast on its axis. It has just a 10 hour day! It takes almost 12

years to revolve around the sun.

Jupiter's most famous feature is its giant (Earth-sized) red spot. This storm moves across Jupiter's surface. It, and 4 of the larger moons, can be seen with a small telescope, or with binoculars. You can see Jupiter at night as a bright orange spot in the sky.

Much of the information we have about Jupiter comes



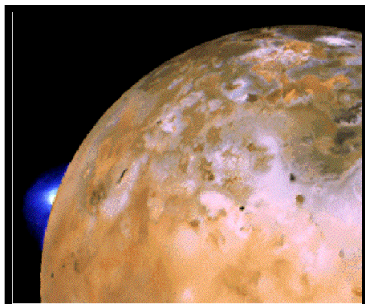
from the flybys of Voyager 1 and Voyager 2. Both satellites returned spectacular images of Jupiter and its moons. Launched in 1977 from Titan III/Centaur rockets, both visited Jupiter and Saturn, with



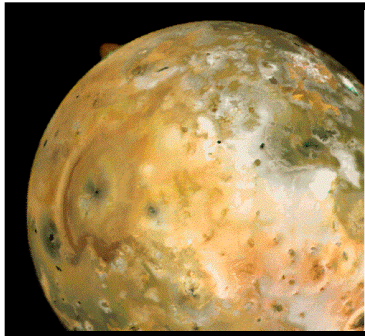
Saturn, with Voyager 2 going on to return the first close-ups of Uranus and Neptune.



One of the biggest surprises to scientists were the photos here of an active volcano erupting on the moon, Io. Scientists had long



thought active volcanoes existed elsewhere in our solar system, but were totally amazed when Voyager sent these images back to earth. The chances of seeing an actual eruption happening were very slim.



Pictured at the right is a ring of Jupiter! Until the Voyager flights, scientist only knew of Saturn's rings. Rings were seen on Uranus and Neptune as well.



Both Voyager spacecraft have now left our solar system. They continue to fly outward through space. Who knows if they may make another unexpected discovery?

QUESTIONS

1. If Jupiter had been a little larger, what could it have been?

2. What is the land-mark that most people know about on Jupiter?

3. How many of Jupiter's moons can you see with binoculars?

4. Can you see Jupiter without a telescope?
YES NO (CIRCLE ONE)

5. Find one interesting fact about Jupiter or its moons not covered in this worksheet on the CD-ROM "Welcome to the Planets". Tell about it.

6. Voyager 2 was launched before Voyage 1. Why did it reach Jupiter later than Voyager 1?

7. What planets did Voyager 1 and 2 study?

Name _____ Date _____

