

Earth

Position from the Sun:	Third planet
Colour:	Blue
Distinctive Characteristics:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The only known planet to have life on it. The only inner planet which has water on its surface - 71% of Earth is covered by water and 29% by mountains, volcanoes, plains and valleys. Therefore, it is also known as 'Blue Planet'. Has an atmosphere that largely consists of oxygen and nitrogen. These gases prevent it from becoming very hot during the day and very cold at night. Has one Moon or Luna - a natural satellite orbiting it.



Fascinating Facts

- The 'ozone' layer in the Earth's atmosphere shields us from the harmful ultraviolet rays of the Sun.
- The Earth is the only planet in the Solar System to have three forms of water - solid as ice, liquid as water and gas as water vapour.
- It takes approximately 8.5 minutes for sunlight to reach the Earth.
- Earth day is celebrated on 22nd April every year as it is the day when Spring season starts in the Northern Hemisphere and Fall/Winter starts in the Southern Hemisphere.

Mars

Position from the Sun:	Fourth planet
Colour:	Red
Distinctive Characteristics:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is covered with rust coloured dust. Has a thin atmosphere, which does not protect the planet from the harmful ultraviolet rays of the Sun. Has two moons called 'Phobos' and 'Deimos'.

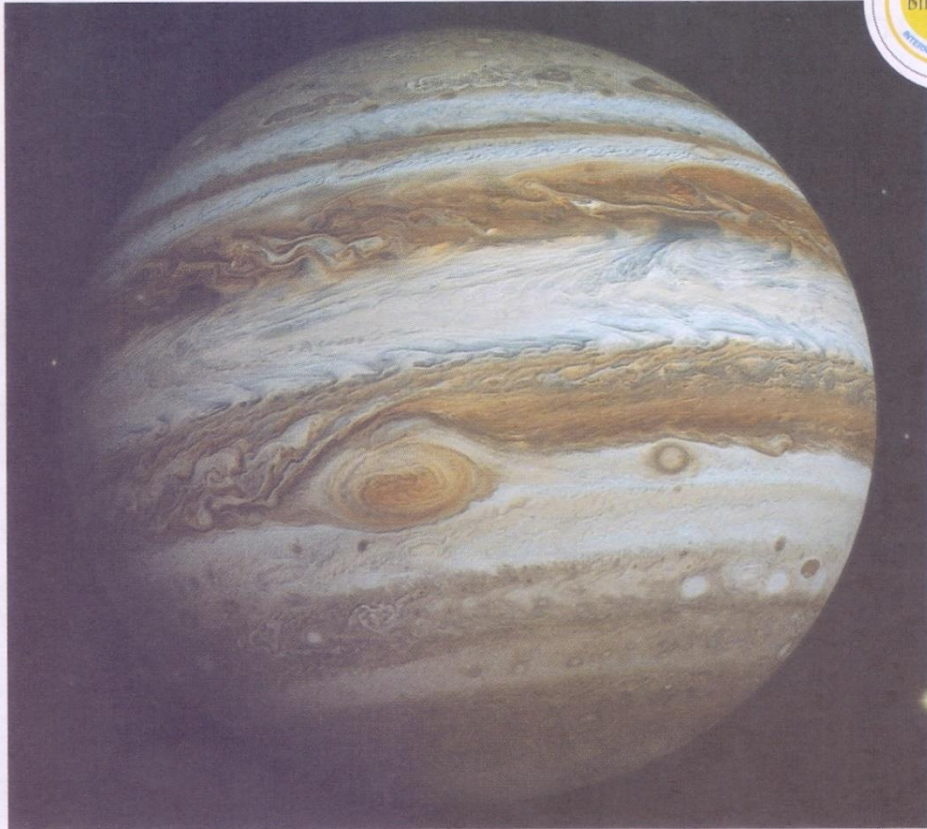


Fascinating Facts

- Mars is home to the tallest mountain in the Solar System - Olympus Mons.
- There are signs of water on Mars.
- United States of America has sent **space probes** to Mars. It was found that the Martian dirt and atmosphere contains clay, which is rich in iron. This gives Mars its red colour.



Jupiter



Fascinating Facts

- Jupiter has the shortest day of 9 hours and 55 minutes.
- The rapid rotation flattens the planet slightly, giving it an **oblate** shape.
- Ganymede is the biggest of all Galilean moons. It is larger than Mercury.
- Planet Jupiter has a system of rings. They are known as 'rings of Jupiter'. The rings are much thinner and therefore less visible than Saturn's, but they are there!

Position from the Sun:	Fifth planet
Colour:	Shades of white, orange, red, brown and yellow
Distinctive Characteristics:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Largest planet - it is so large that all of the other planets in the Solar System could fit inside it. • 'Eye of Jupiter', also called 'The Great Red Spot' is one of the biggest and most violent storm in the Universe and can be seen as an eye-shaped red spot. The spot is at least three times the size of Earth! • Has an atmosphere full of hydrogen gas. • According to NASA, Jupiter has 67 moons. The four biggest moons are called the Galilean moons because these were discovered by the famous astronomer, Galileo Galilei who also invented the telescope.