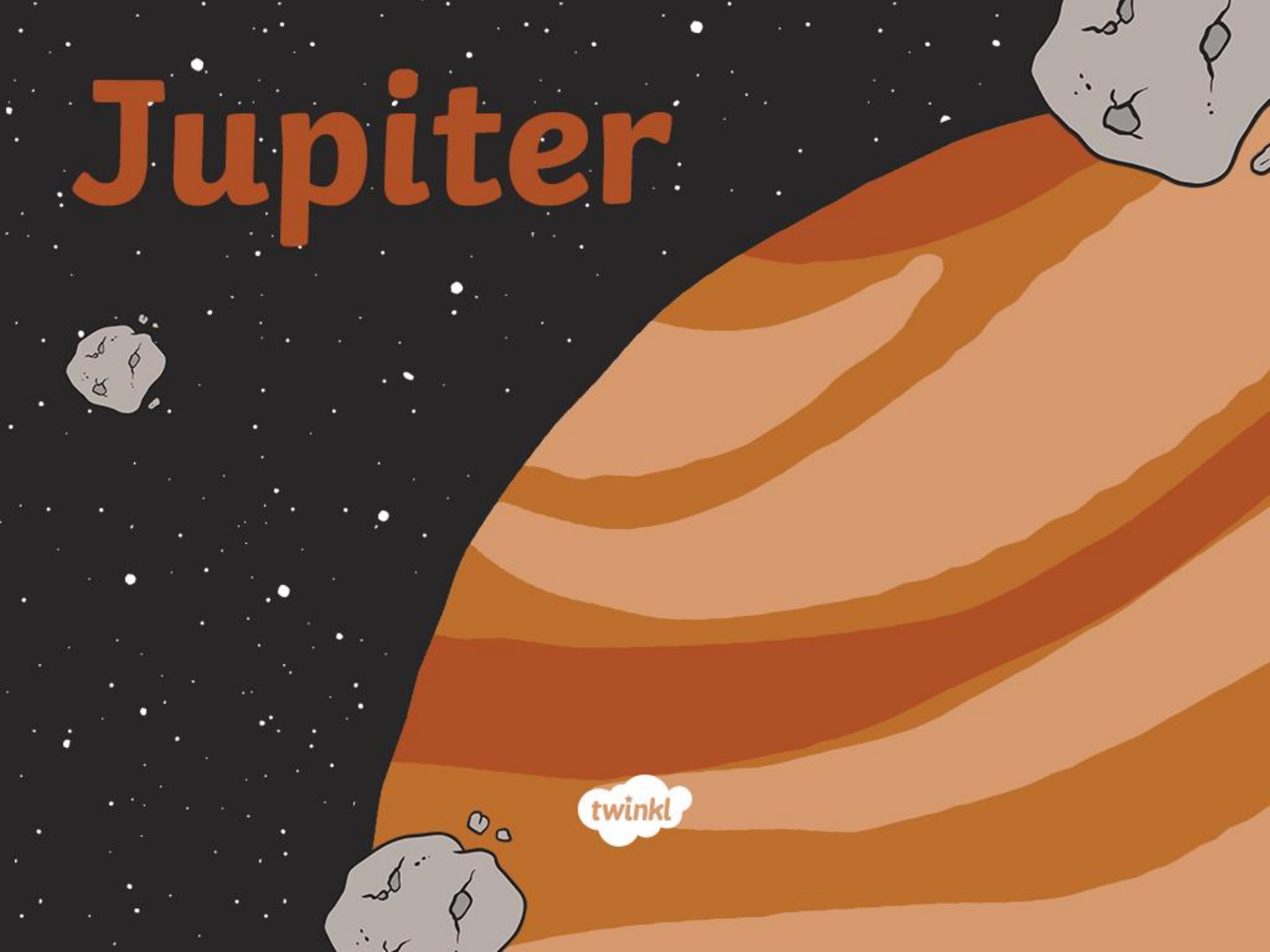


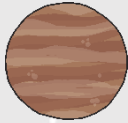
Jupiter



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Earth is only one of the planets in our Solar System. There are seven other planets that also orbit our Sun.

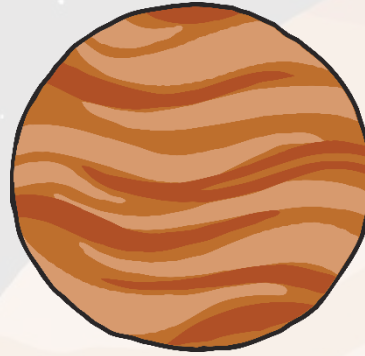
Venus



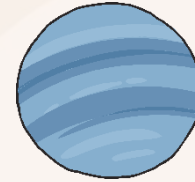
Earth



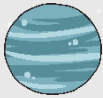
Jupiter



Uranus



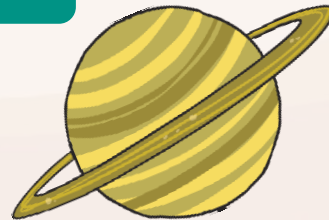
Mercury



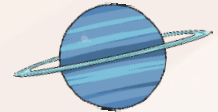
Mars



Saturn

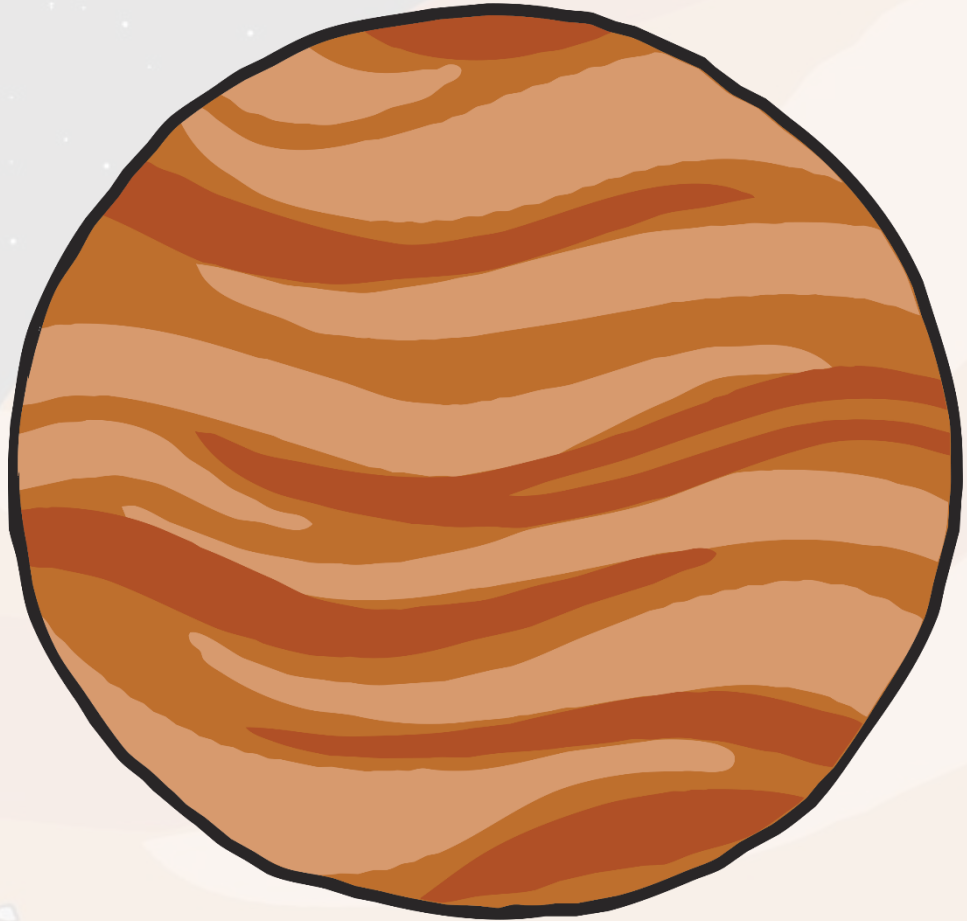


Neptune



The Largest Planet

The planet Jupiter is the largest planet in the Solar System. It is the fifth planet from the Sun and 588 million kilometres away from Earth.



Even though it is so far away, Jupiter is usually the fourth brightest object in the sky (after the Sun, the Moon and the planet Venus).

Jupiter



Jupiter is a gas giant. It is a huge ball of gas with no solid surface. It has a cloudy atmosphere with colourful belts and spots.

It is so enormous that you could fit over 1,300 Earths inside! To help you imagine this, if Earth was the size of a grape, Jupiter would be the size of a basketball.

Jupiter's most famous feature is its Great Red Spot. This is a giant storm that has been blowing non-stop for hundreds of years. The spot is bigger than the Earth!



Jupiter is named after the king of the Roman gods. The Romans named it 'the star of Jupiter' after seeing it in the night sky, believing it to be sacred to their god, Jupiter.



The Largest Planet

Jupiter is very different from Earth.

- One day on Jupiter is less than 10 hours long! It is the fastest spinning planet in the Solar System.
- Jupiter takes a long time to orbit the Sun. One year on Jupiter is the same as 12 years on Earth.
- Jupiter has 79 known moons. 12 of those were only discovered in July 2018.



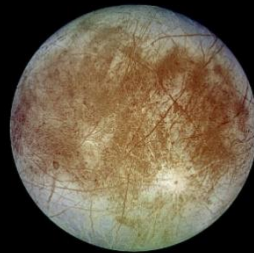
Jupiter's Moons

Out of Jupiter's 79 moons, the four Galilean moons of Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto are of the most interest to scientists.

Click on each moon below to find out more information!



Io



Europa



Ganymed



Callisto

Exploring



Humans have known about Jupiter for thousands of years. However, it is only recently that we have had the technology to study Jupiter and its moons close up.

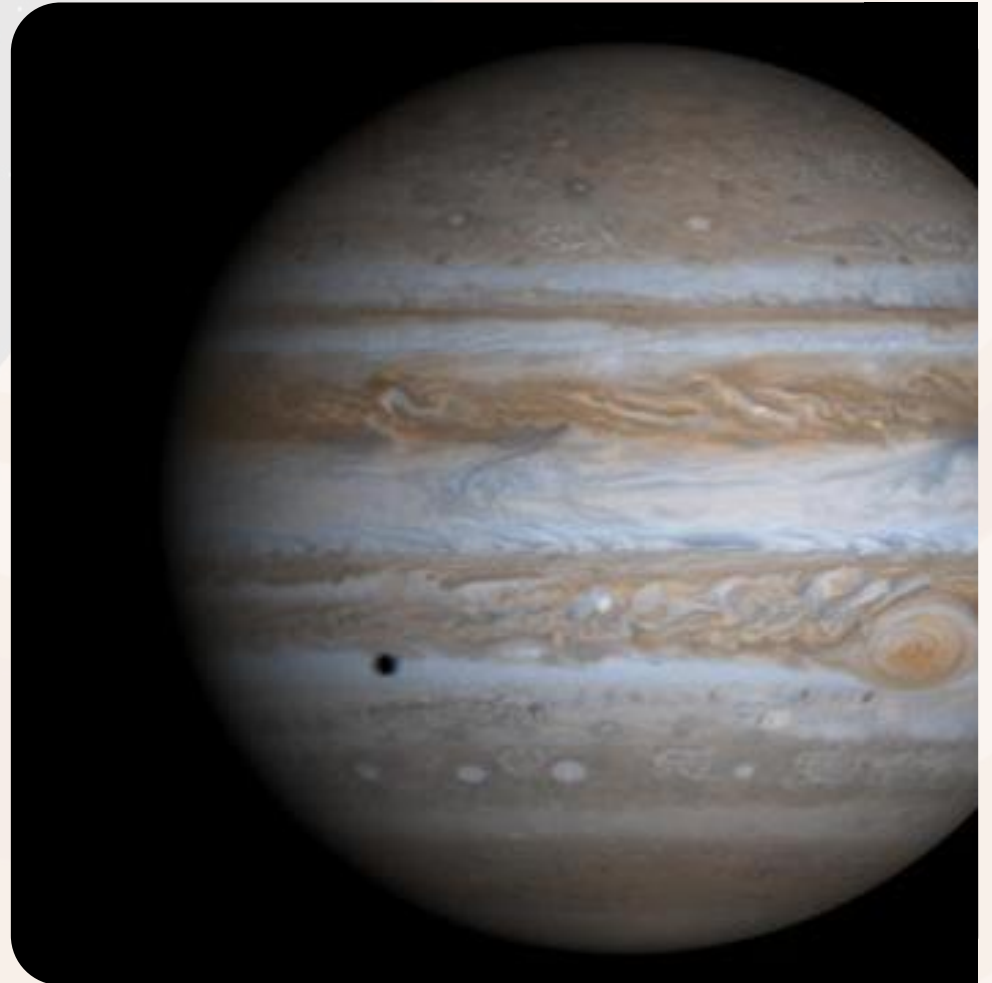


The first spacecraft to visit Jupiter was Pioneer 10 in 1973, followed a year later by Pioneer 11. The Pioneer spacecraft took the first close-up pictures of the planet.

Exploring

In 1979, the Voyager 1 and Voyager 2 probes visited Jupiter. They studied the moons, discovered the volcanoes on Io and the ice on Europa.

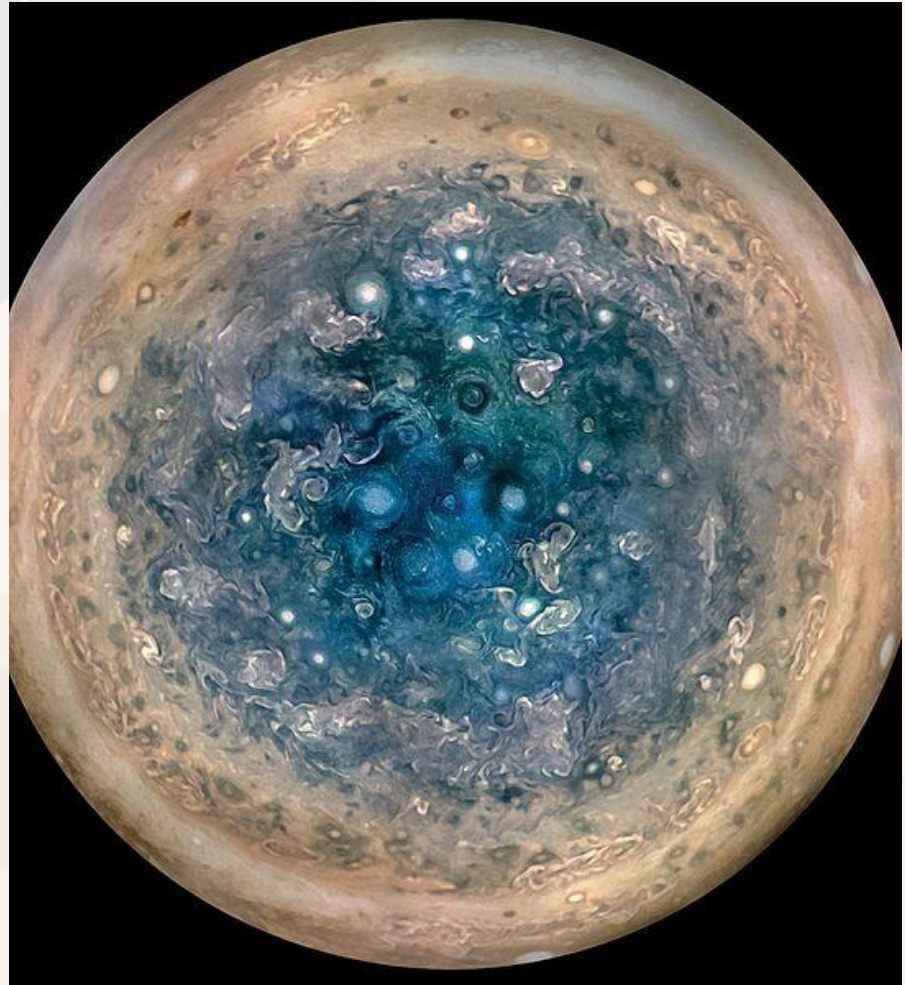
The Cassini probe took close-up pictures of Jupiter in 2000 and the New Horizons spacecraft passed by Jupiter in 2007, taking detailed measurements.



Exploring

In 2016, the Juno spacecraft put itself in orbit around Jupiter. It is measuring the planet's atmosphere and has taken some detailed photographs of areas never seen before, such as Jupiter's south pole.

It is expected to stay in orbit until the end of its mission in July 2021, when it will crash and burn up into Jupiter's atmosphere.



Photographs of Jupiter



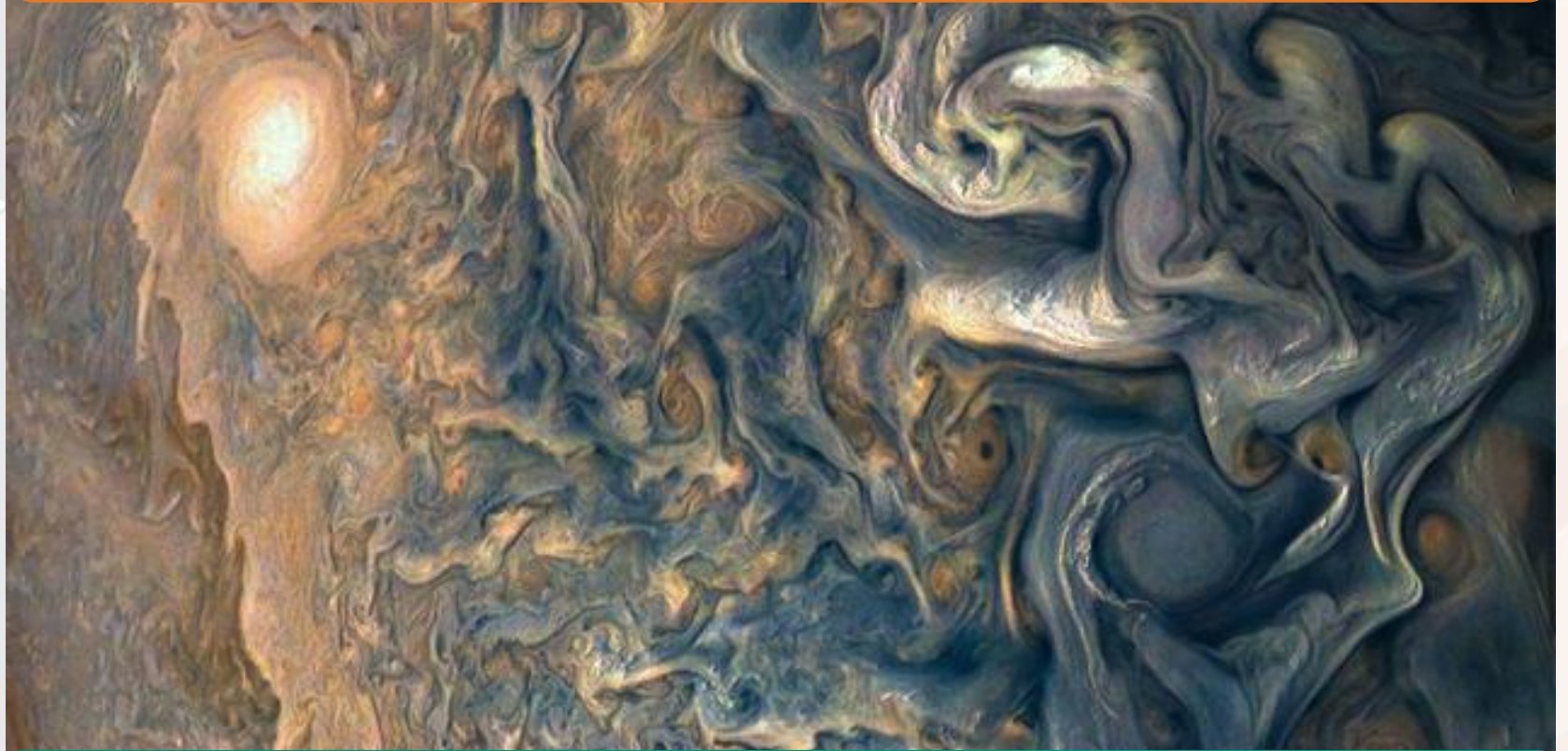
Jupiter's southern hemisphere in beautiful detail taken by NASA's Juno spacecraft.

Photographs of Jupiter



Detailed image of Jupiter's bands, taken by NASA's Juno spacecraft.

Photographs of Jupiter



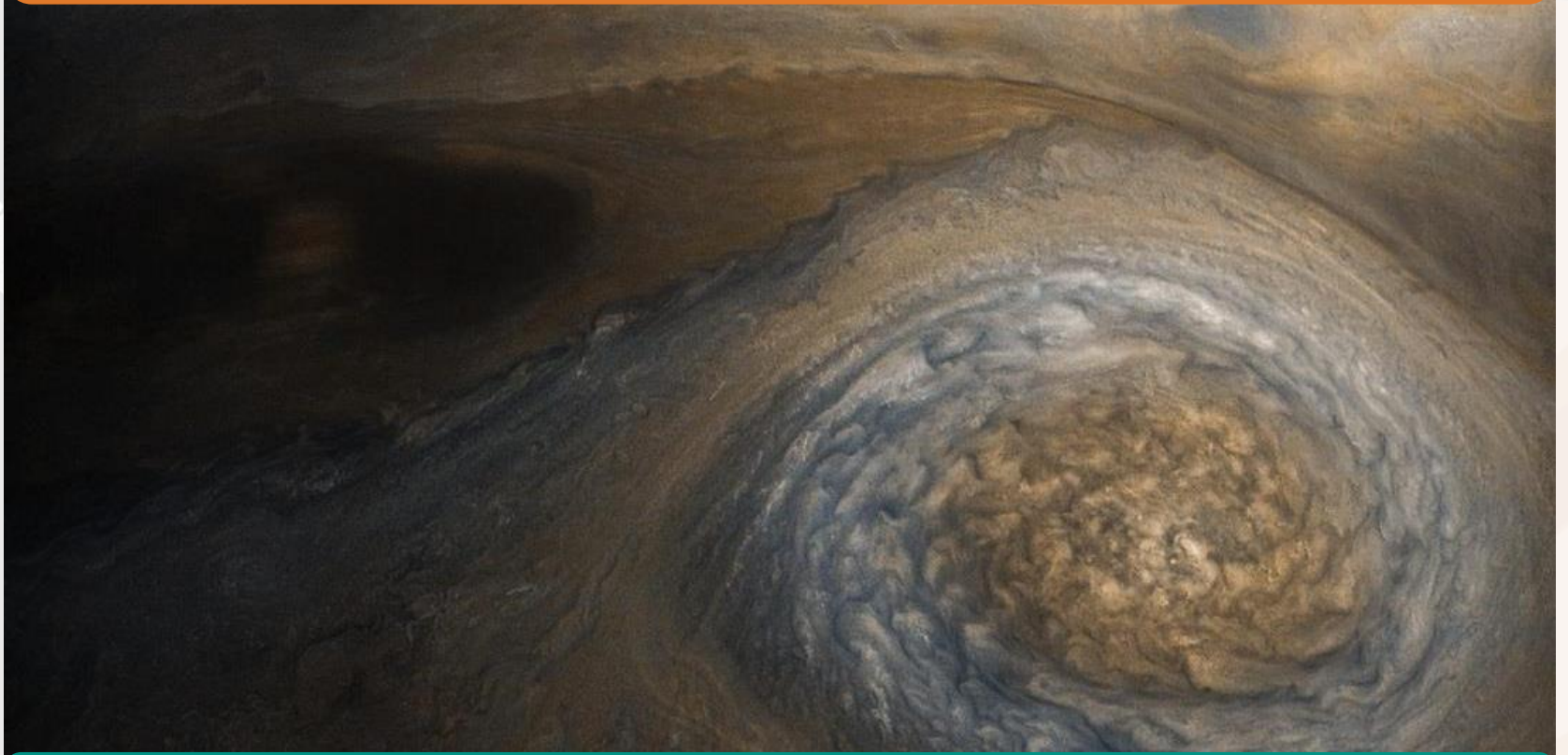
Detailed close-up image of Jupiter's clouds, taken by NASA's Juno spacecraft.

Photographs of Jupiter



A close-up image of Jupiter's Great Red Spot, taken by NASA's Voyager 1 spacecraft

Photographs of Jupiter



A close-up image of a storm at Jupiter's north pole, taken by NASA's Juno spacecraft.



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