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Make a Jupiter jar

Create the swirling clouds of Jupiter with this cool science experiment.

What you need

- Yellow, red and gold mica powder (available from craft shops and online)
- Teaspoon
- Bowl
- A jug of water
- Red and yellow food colouring
- A globe-shaped jar

How does it work?

Jupiter is the largest planet in the solar system. The swirling bands you see in its atmosphere are vast storm clouds. Some storms have been raging for hundreds of years. The largest – the Great Red Spot – is bigger than Earth and has been observed for more than 150 years. Wind speeds inside the storm reach 250 miles per hour. The magic ingredient for your Jupiter jar is mica powder, which comes from a mineral called muscovite and has a natural shimmer.



The real planet Jupiter.



1 Add a teaspoon each of red, yellow and gold mica powder to a bowl. Fill the bowl to the top with water and stir well.



2 Add a few drops of red and yellow food colouring, until you get close to the golden, red, and rich brown colours of the planet Jupiter.



3 Now, swirl your ingredients together and watch them form "clouds". Pour the mixture into a round jar to get a more Jupiter-like effect.