



Highly Commended

# Science Writing Year 3-4

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## *Jupiter's Great Red Spot:*

### *A Mystery of the Universe* by Aurelia Walter

#### INTRODUCTION / CLASSIFICATION

### *What is Jupiter's Great Red Spot?*

Jupiter's Great Red Spot is a big storm made of smaller storms. It is the largest storm in our solar system. There are things we know about Jupiter's Great Red Spot and things we don't know.



Jupiter with its Great Red Spot, the largest storm in our solar system (drawn by Aurelia)

## Where is Jupiter's Great Red Spot?

Jupiter's red spot is on Jupiter. Jupiter is the largest planet in our solar system and is the fifth planet from the sun. Jupiter is a gas giant that is mostly made of hydrogen and helium and is 142,984 km in diameter. The great red spot is located 22° south of Jupiter's equator.



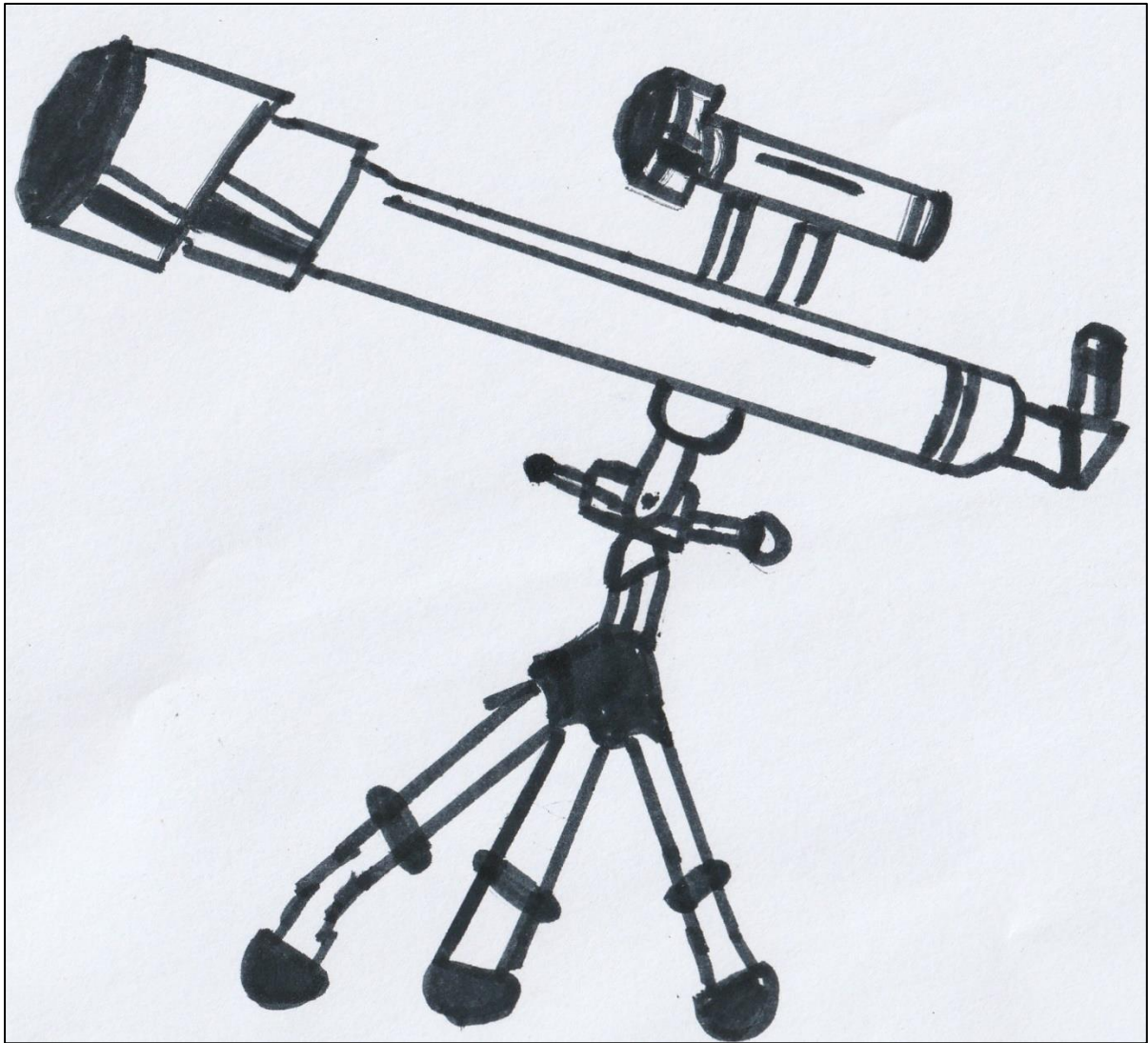
Our solar system with Jupiter, the fifth planet from the sun (drawn by Aurelia)



## DESCRIPTION

### *How have we learned about Jupiter's Great Red Spot*

Scientists know about Jupiter's Great red spot through telescopes and space crafts.



A telescope (drawn by Aurelia)

## *What we know*

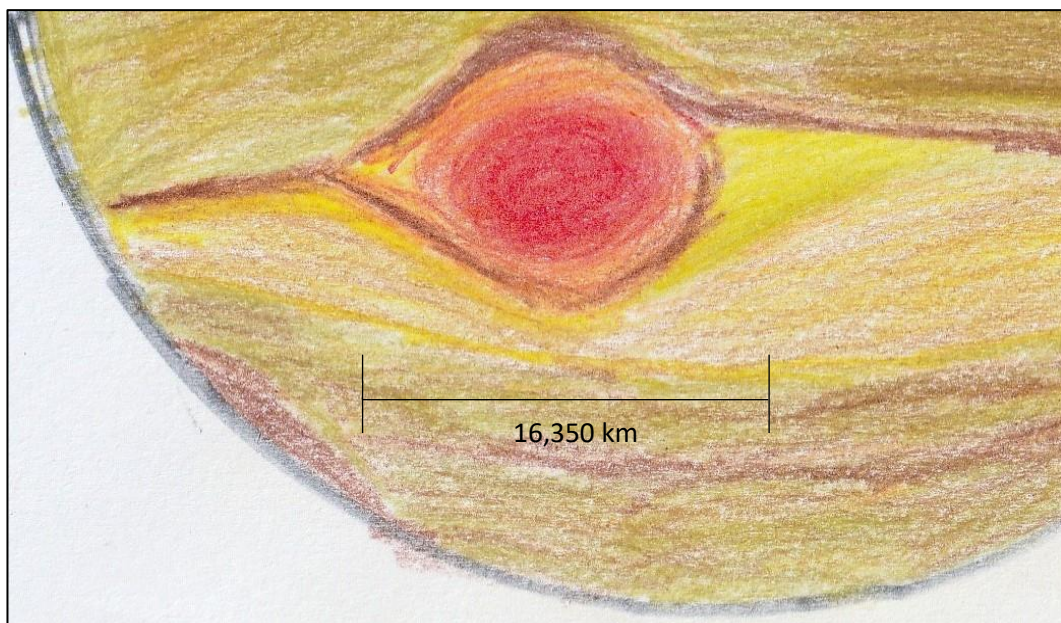
1. Jupiter's red spot is very hot. It is 1300°C. The core is the warmest part.
2. Jupiter's red spot is also very big. It is twice the width of earth. Jupiter's red spot is 16,350 km wide and 500 km deep.
3. The centre is calm, but the edges go up to 432 km/h.
4. Over the past decade the winds have been picking up and it has changed shape to a more oval shape. Jupiter's red spot is shrinking but as it shrinks it get taller.

## *What we don't know*

1. We are not sure how old Jupiter's Great Red Spot is, but we think it is at least 150 years old. It was first spotted in 1831.
2. We don't know if it is dying. It is shrinking but it might not be dying.
3. We don't know why it is red. We think that because the red spot is so tall, sunlight in the planets upper atmosphere break down chemicals making the red colour, but scientists are not quite sure yet.

## *Will Jupiter's great red spot disappear?*

We are not sure when it will disappear, it could disappear within 20 years. In the late 1800s the storm was four times the size of earth, but it is now only twice the size of earth. Some scientists' think that Jupiter's great red spot will disappear, but it might not because it shrinks and grows a lot. At the moment it is shrinking more than it has ever and has not grown for a long time. Scientist do not know why it is shrinking. The rate it is shrinking at means that if it keeps shrinking at the same rate it will vanish in 70 years.



Jupiter's red spot is 16,350 km wide and 500 km deep, but has been shrinking and might disappear (drawn by Aurelia)

## CONCLUSION

Even though we know many things about Jupiter's Great Red Spot, it is a big mystery, and it could disappear.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to my mother for helping me with my reference list and scanning pictures.

## WORDCOUNT

513 words.

## References

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