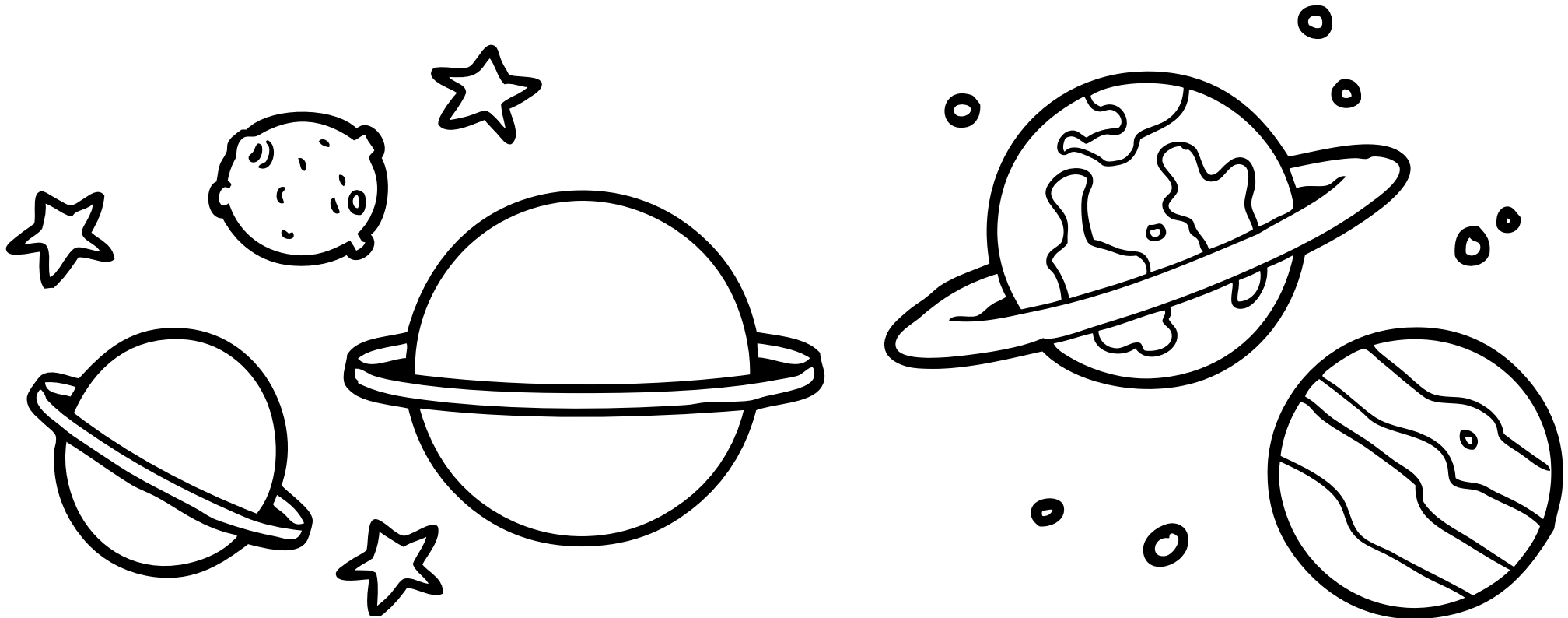
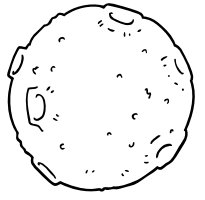
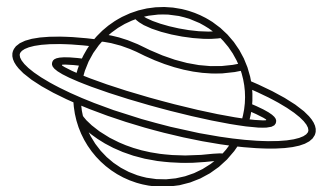


STEM SPARK

Presents

Backyard Astronomy

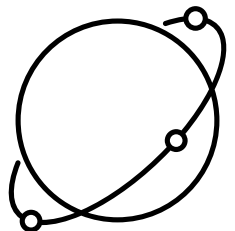
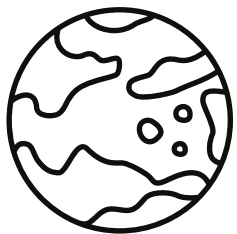





Backyard Astronomy

The night sky is full of stars and planets. Astronomers believe that the Milky Way galaxy, which is the home of our solar system, contains over 300 billion stars with their own solar systems! In ancient times, the night sky was used to navigate. Because the Earth is constantly moving, the stars and planets appear to move across the sky.

In this activity, we will observe our solar system's two gas giants, Jupiter and Saturn, align in the night sky! The last time this was observed was by Galileo in 1623.

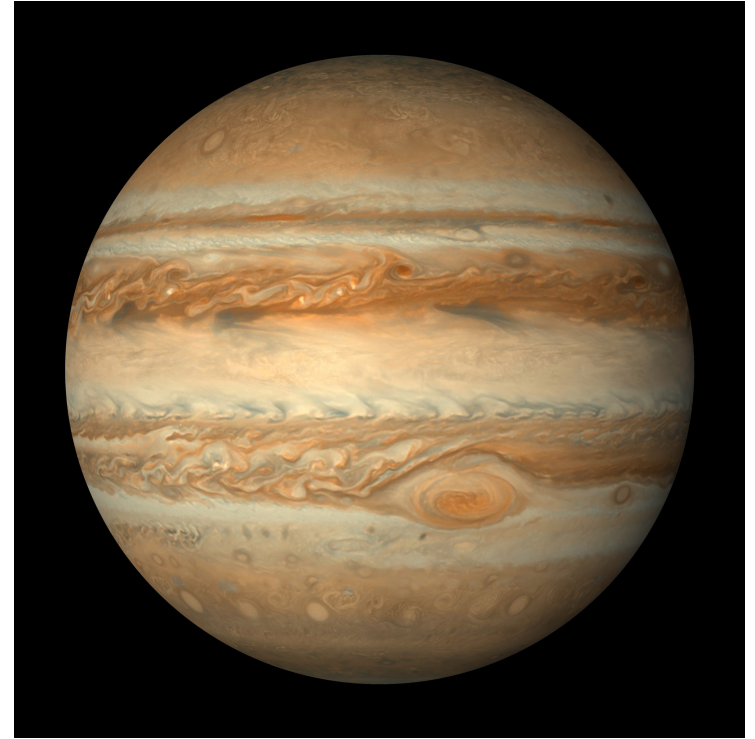





Jupiter

Top 5 Facts!

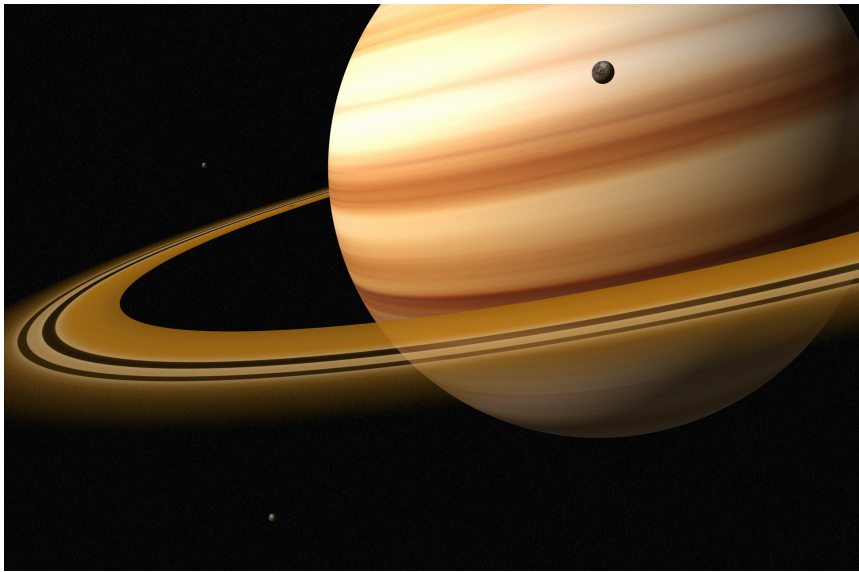
1. Jupiter is the largest planet in the solar system!
2. Jupiter is a Giant Gas planet. This is because the planet is mostly made of gas!
3. Jupiter has over 75 moons!
4. Nine spacecrafts have visited Jupiter
5. Jupiter spins really fast. A day on Jupiter is only 10 Earth hours!






Saturn

Top 5 Facts!



1. Saturn is 9 times larger than Earth
2. Saturn has 7 rings. These rings are made of ice and dust
3. Saturn takes 29 Earth years to take one trip around the Sun
4. Saturn has 53 known moons and 29 unconfirmed moons!
5. Depending on Saturn's rotation, sometimes the rings disappear!



Backyard Astronomy

Observe these planets and their movements in your backyard. Around 5:30 pm, find an unobstructed view of the sky. Face the direction of the sunset. Make a quarter turn South. Look for a bright, non-twinkling spot in the sky. You should be able to observe it with just your eyes, however, if you have binoculars or a telescope, you will be able to see Jupiter's moons and Saturn's rings.

Observe where the spot falls in relation to other houses, trees, or natural landmarks. Use your hands to measure the distance between a point of the triangle and the landmark. Draw your observations.



Sample Observation Page

Date: December 21, 2020

Location: Backyard, middle of yard

Time: 5:30 pm

Weather: 38 degrees, clear skies

