

Storms on Jupiter

We've seen storms on most of the planets in our solar system. A famous storm on Jupiter is called the "Great Red Spot." The storm is a huge, spinning hurricane. It's so big that two to three Earth's could fit inside of it! This storm has been going on for hundreds of years! Some scientists believe that the storm has lasted so long because it never goes over land – Jupiter is made of gas – so there is nothing to slow it down.

In this demonstration activity, your child will see how the clouds swirl around in a storm and compare them to the Great Red Spot's movement.

What you Need:

- Large round pan or bowl
- Water
- Corn starch
- Spoon
- Video of the Great Red Spot in color
- Video of the Great Red Spot in black and white



What to Do:

- Sprinkle a little cornstarch into the bowl.
- Pour water into bowl until it's about 3 inches deep.
- Stir water and cornstarch together until the clumps are gone.
- Once the water is still and the cornstarch has settled to the bottom, run the tip of the spoon straight across the pan.
- Compare what you see to the video of the Great Red Spot.

Parent Prompts:

*What do you see when you run the spoon across the pan?
(Hurricane-like eddies form to either side of the spoon.)*

Does what you see look like the pattern you seen on Jupiter in the Great Red Spot? (Yes!)