

# Galloping Through the Gas Giants

## Interactive Posters

In this activity, you and your child will discover together basic information about the amazing gas giants! After you've viewed them all, you'll circle the answer that best fits the description given.

### What You Need:

- 8 sheets of poster board in different colors
- Large print-outs of the below information and questions
- Glue or tape to adhere the information to the poster boards
- Scissors
- Color images of the Gas Giants
- Print-out of below "Rocky Planet or Gas Giant" Question and Answer Sheet

### What to Do:

Use the information in each of the following "mini-posters" to create a big, bold, colorful poster with related images.

Make sure the answers to the questions are on the posters, but covered by a page labeled "lift me" that hides the answer.

Have the children and their parents respond to the questions together and read through the related information on each poster to gain an understanding of the gas giants.

### **Poster 1.**

***What are the names of the Gas Giant planets and why are they called the Gas GIANTS?***

*Answer: Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune!*

*Gas Giants are made of gas and they are the biggest planets – the giants - in our solar system!*

Jupiter and Saturn are mostly made of Hydrogen with Helium.

Neptune and Uranus are made of rock and ice and some Hydrogen and Helium. Their atmospheres contain a little methane gas – which gives these planets their blue color!

It would be very hard to land on the Gas Giants because they don't really have a solid surface!

**Poster 2.**

**Which of the Gas Giants is farthest from Earth?**

*Answer: Neptune is the farthest Gas Giant. It is over 2 and a half billion miles from Earth!*

The order of the Gas Giants is Jupiter (closest to Earth), then Saturn, then Uranus, and finally Neptune (farthest from Earth)

Jupiter is over 400 million miles from Earth

**Poster 3.**

**True or False: ALL the Gas Giant planets have rings like Saturn.**

*Answer: True!*

**What are Saturn's rings made of?**

*Answer: Saturn's rings are made mostly of WATER ICE Particles!! The rings are not solid, but bands of small particles. The rings are nearly 155,000 miles across but less than half a mile thick.*

**Poster 4.**

**Which planet has the most moons??**

*Answer: Jupiter has 63 moons (as of our latest count!). Some moons like Ganymede and Europa are icy and some – like Io - have volcanoes!*

*Score Card: Saturn = 59, Uranus = 27, Neptune = 13*

*Jupiter also has the largest moon – icy Ganymede. Saturn's moon Titan is the second largest.*

### **Poster 5.**

#### **What causes Jupiter's Stripes or Bands??**

*Answer: Jupiter's stripes are created by strong WINDS!!  
All of the Gas Giants have bands – but Jupiter's are the easiest to see.*

#### **Which Gas Giant has the longest year??**

Hint: It's the one that is the farthest gas giant from the Sun and has the longest distance to travel!

*Answer: It takes Neptune 165 Earth years to orbit the Sun! Only Pluto takes longer (248 Earth years)*

Uranus = 84 Earth years to orbit the sun  
Saturn = 29 Earth years to orbit the sun  
Jupiter = 12 Earth years to orbit the sun

### **Poster 6.**

#### **Which planet is the largest?**

*Answer: Jupiter is the biggest Gas Giant. It is 11x the width of Earth!*

#### **Which planet is the only one in our solar system that spins on its side??**

*Answer: URANUS is the only planet in our solar system that spins on its side!*

**Poster 7.**

***Which is the windiest planet in the whole solar system?***

*Answer: Neptune is the windiest planet with winds over 1250 miles per hour!*

That's fast – That's 5x's stronger than the strongest hurricane winds on Earth!!

**Poster 8.**

***True or False: Neptune is the farthest planet from the Sun?***

*Answer: True ... Sometimes!*

*Sometimes Neptune's orbit around the Sun takes it OUTSIDE of Pluto's orbit (because Pluto's orbit is so elliptical). For about 20 years of every 250 years, Neptune is the FARTHEST planet in our solar system.*

**NEPTUNE** sometimes switches places with Pluto as the planet in our solar system farthest from the Sun.

***Which Gas Giant is known as the BLUE planet?***

*Answer: NEPTUNE is known as the **BLUE** planet. It is blue because it has methane gas in its atmosphere.*