



## RED SPOT

Demonstrate the movement in Jupiter's red spot.

### Materials

- 1 large wide-mouthed jar
- 1 tea bag
- Pencil

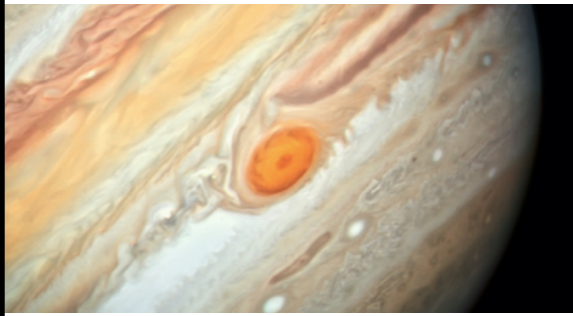


Image Credit: NASA, ESA, A. Simon (Goddard Space Flight Center), and M.H. Wong (University of California, Berkeley)

### Procedure

- Fill the jar to the top with water.
- Open the tea bag and pour the tea leaves onto the water.
- Insert the pencil in the center of the water.
- Move the pencil quickly in a small circle until the tea leaves group and begin to swirl in the center area of the water.

### Results

The tea leaves swirl around the pencil in the middle creating a funnel shape, or vortex.

### Why?

The tea leaves are pulled toward the center of the vortex created by the rotating water. The red spot seen on Jupiter is a massive hurricane large enough to swallow three Earths. It is believed that Jupiter's red spot is a massive storm created by swirling gases in a vortex, much like our spinning tea leaves. The red spot is three times larger than the Earth and has not changed in appearance since its discovery.