



## JUPITER'S GLIMMER Determine why Jupiter's ring shines.

### Materials

- Flashlight
- Baby powder in a plastic shaker

### Procedure

- In a darkened room, place the flashlight on the edge of a table.
- Hold the open powder container below the beam of light.
- Quickly squeeze the powder container.

### Results

After spraying powder into the light beam, the specks of powder glisten, making the light path visible.

### Why?

Light is not visible unless it can be reflected to your eye. The tiny specks of powder act like the fine particles in the ring around Jupiter in that they reflect the Sun's light. Jupiter's ring is 34,000 miles away from the planet's cloud top. The material in these rings is thought to come from Io, the innermost of Jupiter's four large moons. Io is the only known moon with active volcanoes, and it is possible that the ash from these volcanoes forms Jupiter's ring.

To learn more about space, check out Seasonal Stargazing at the AutoZone Sharpe Planetarium!

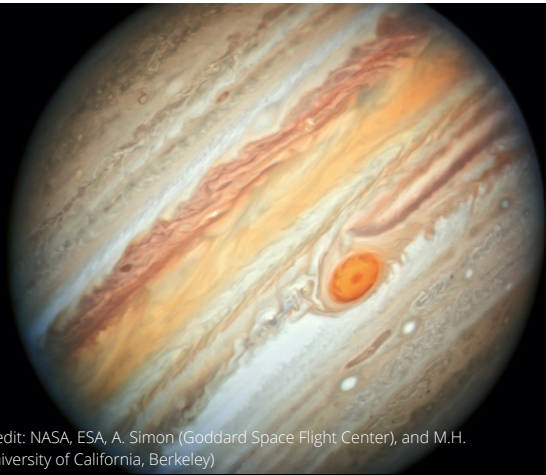


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