



**Pictured:** Hamster in the stratosphere. **Source:** Iwatani Hiken

## Hamster in the stratosphere

A hamster has safely returned to Earth, after it was launched into the stratosphere on a flying balloon. The balloon was launched from a city on Okinawa Island, Japan, by Japanese company, Iwatani Giken. The company is hoping to bring space travel to the general public and the experiment was designed to give confidence to would-be space travellers. The rodent, who was travelling in an airtight cabin 60cm high and 50cm

in diameter with the same atmospheric pressure and temperature as the ground, reached a maximum altitude of 14 miles (22.5km). An onboard camera showed the hamster, who is in good health after being safely recovered from the sea off Japan's Miyako Island, napping during its journey. The next flight tests Iwatani Giken has planned will reach an altitude of 15 miles (23km) – a height at which you can see the curvature of the Earth.

## Drinking water out of thin air!

A Tunisian company called Kumulus has developed a generator that can refine vapour in the air into water that is safe to drink. The tech start-up business says on their website that 1 billion people don't have access to clean drinking water and that 31% of schools worldwide do not have clean water! Because of these shocking facts, they are on a mission to help provide economical and sustainable access to safe drinking water, which they state

should not be a luxury and is a right to all human beings on Earth. The Kumulus-1 is an Atmospheric Water Generator (AWG) that can produce 20 to 30 litres of healthy drinking water per day. The water vapour in the air is put through a system that removes particles and kills any harmful bacteria, the water is then collected in a small reservoir, from here it is ready to be safely consumed.



**Pictured:** Kumulus-1 being tested and showcased at the Inauguration of the Bayadha primary school, Ghardimaou, Tunisia. **Source:** Kumulus Water's Facebook page.

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

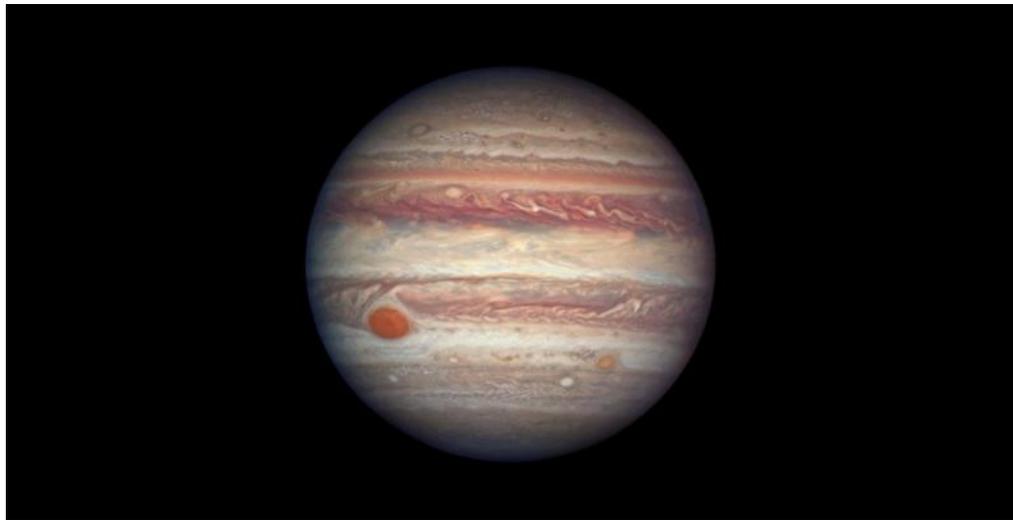
[www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss](http://www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss)



# Did Jupiter 'eat' chunks of other planets?

People have often wondered how Jupiter became so big! Jupiter is the fifth planet from the Sun and the biggest planet in our Solar System! The planet is so big that over 1,300 Earths could fit inside it. Jupiter's mass is two and a half times greater than that of the other eight planets put together! Astronomers now think it 'ate' chunks of other planets to grow so huge and heavy. The international team of astronomers, led by Yamila Miguel from the SRON Netherlands Institute for Space

Research, theorise that the massive planet absorbed a number of 'planetesimals' on its journey to become the biggest planet in the solar system. A planetesimal is an object formed from dust, rock, and other materials during the creation of planets. They can measure from several meters to hundreds of kilometres in diameter. Data gathered during NASA's Juno space mission was used to study the distribution of metals within the planet to provide information about how Jupiter was formed.



**Pictured:** Jupiter. **Source:** Robert Sullivan

## Last week's topic: How important are appearances?



I think appearance does matter but not as much as someone's personality and traits.  
**Edward**

I don't think people should treat animals differently if they don't look as nice. They should be treated the same.  
**Abi**

Yes and no. No because what's underneath matters and yes because if you are scruffy going to work it isn't good.  
**Philis**

I think that sometimes what things look like matter, but we should always look beyond that as well.  
**Gemma**

## Let us know what you think about this week's news?

 [www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss](http://www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss)

 [help@picture-news.co.uk](mailto:help@picture-news.co.uk)

 @HelpPicture

 Picture News Ltd,  
Colber Lane,  
Bishop Thornton,  
Harrogate,  
North Yorkshire, HG3 3JR

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

[www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss](http://www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss)

