

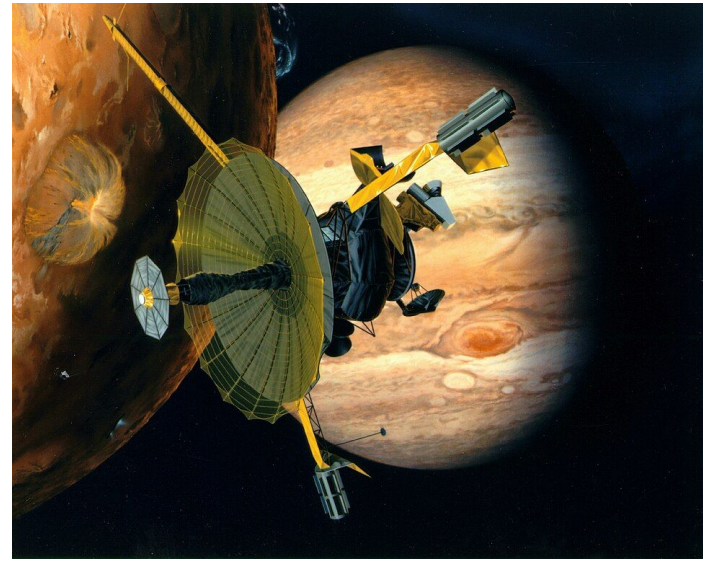
MONDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER

On this day 2003, NASA Scientists deliberately used the last of fuel in the Galileo probe to deliberately accelerate it into the atmosphere of Jupiter at nearly 50,000 m/s so that it was destroyed.

It was an unusual end to a space mission, especially one that had been a huge success, but its success was part of the problem.

Galileo, named after the Italian astronomer who first identified four of Jupiter's moons in 1610, was launched in 1989 to study Jupiter and its moons. Reaching Jupiter in 1995, it had been in orbit of Jupiter for 8 years and amongst other discoveries had found that Europa had a salty liquid ocean beneath its icy surface and thus had the potential for supporting life.

The Galileo probe had not been **sterilised** before launch and so, although remote, there was a small chance that it contained Earth microbes that may have survived the journey. Rather than risk contaminating Europa as Galileo's orbit would gradually decay it was decided to eliminate the risk entirely crashing Galileo into the Jovian atmosphere.



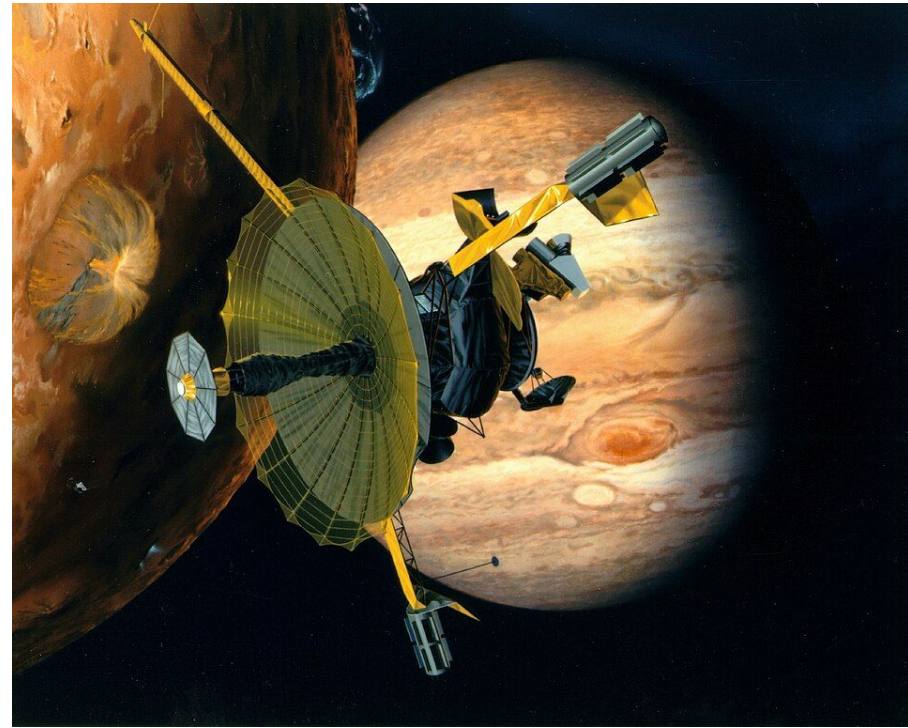
- If you had been working on Galileo for more than 14 years how would you feel about its destruction?
- Would it matter if there is life in the ocean under the ice of Europa?
- Are there any environments on Earth that we shouldn't contaminate?

MONDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER

On this day 2003, NASA Scientists deliberately crashed the Galileo probe into Jupiter so that it was destroyed.

Galileo had spent 8 years orbited Jupiter studying its moons. It had found that Europa had a salty liquid ocean beneath its icy surface with the potential for supporting life.

Galileo had not been **sterilised** before launch, so rather than risk it crashing into Europa and contaminating it with Earth microbes, it was destroyed in the Jovian atmosphere



- If you had been working on Galileo for more than 14 years how would you feel about its destruction?