

Mercury Study Sheet

1. craters Common feature on Mercury's surface due to asteroid impacts.
2. Caloris Basin Mercury's largest impact crater.
3. Mercury This planet is closest to the Sun.
4. magnetic field Weak and irregular on Mercury compared to Earth.
5. one day 88 Earth days is equal to this for Mercury.
6. scarps Cliffs created by the planet's cooling and contracting.
7. iron core Mercury's large, molten innermost layer.
8. solar radiation Intense heat due to proximity to the Sun.
9. exosphere The outermost layer of Mercury's atmosphere.
10. retrograde rotation Unusual direction of Mercury's rotation.
11. pinkish hue Color of the planet's surface due to iron oxide.
12. Mariner 10 Early NASA mission that flew by Mercury in the 1970s.
13. sodium tail Result of solar wind interaction with Mercury's surface.
14. Kuiper Crater Named after a Dutch-American astronomer.
15. MESSENGER Acronym for the spacecraft that orbited Mercury.
16. volcanic plains Flat regions formed by ancient volcanic activity.
17. temperature extremes Mercury's scorching days and frigid nights.
18. inclination Angle of Mercury's orbit relative to Earth's.
19. BepiColombo European Space Agency and JAXA mission to Mercury.
20. eccentric Mercury has this type of orbit around the Sun.