

Planet Mercury Study Sheet

1. Mercury The closest planet to the Sun.
2. Caloris Basin The largest impact crater on Mercury.
3. perihelion The point in Mercury's orbit closest to the Sun.
4. iron core Mercury has a large one that makes up most of its interior.
5. day A single one of these on Mercury lasts about 59 Earth days.
6. temperature Mercury experiences extreme changes in this, from hot to cold.
7. Messenger NASA mission that orbited Mercury from 2011 to 2015.
8. Mariner 10 The first spacecraft to visit Mercury.
9. gravity Mercury has a weak one compared to Earth.
10. magnetosphere Mercury has a weak one, similar to Earth's.
11. craters Mercury's surface is covered in these due to frequent impacts.
12. solar wind This from the Sun influences Mercury's magnetosphere.
13. atmosphere Mercury has a very thin one, almost a vacuum.
14. orbital period Mercury completes one around the Sun in about 88 Earth days.
15. exosphere The extremely thin outer layer of Mercury's atmosphere.
16. solar day This is the period of time between two noons on Mercury, lasting about 176 Earth days.
17. albedo This term refers to how much sunlight Mercury reflects.
18. ice This surprising substance exists in craters at Mercury's poles.
19. scarps Steep cliffs found on Mercury's surface, formed by tectonic activity.
20. aphelion The point in Mercury's orbit farthest from the Sun.
21. axis The line that Mercury rotates around, which is almost vertical.