

Answers: Mercury

Marking guidance - Value reasoning as well as the selected answer

1 to 4 | Identify

1. Rocky planet.
2. Accept a correct location or orbital relationship.
3. Rotation: 58.65 days; orbital period: 87.97 days.
4. Temperature: -180 to 430 °C; also accept a correct environmental feature.

5 and 6 | Read and compare

5. Each figure needs its unit and measured quantity.
6. The explanation should preserve the meaning of this comparison: Its diameter is about 38% of Earth's.

Teaching point

A rounded figure is still a useful estimate. The size of a drawing does not prove that its proportions are correct. A comparison must state its reference.

Answers: check and explain

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7. B. Water ice

Water ice survives in craters that sunlight never reaches.

8. A. MESSENGER

MESSENGER studied Mercury from orbit between 2011 and 2015.

9. D. No

Mercury has no known natural satellites.

10. B. A heavily cratered world

Its ancient cratered surface resembles the Moon's.

11 to 13 | Quantities and models

11. Accept two units from the table correctly linked to their quantities.
12. Bodies can be enlarged or distances compressed for readability, but this must be stated.
13. Accept accurate similarities and differences supported by a fact sheet or scientific source.

Answers: investigate and write

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14 | Observation or fact

Accept an accurate sentence describing a checkable characteristic or figure. Do not accept an opinion presented as a fact.

15 | Scientific question

The question should be investigable through observations, measurements, comparisons or a mission. Reward precise, testable wording.

Mini-mission | Suggested marks out of 10

Description of the environment: 0-2.

Three correctly used scientific terms: 0-2.

Clear exploration objective: 0-2.

Plausible mission and coherent account: 0-2.

Between 5 and 7 clear sentences: 0-2.

Adaptation

Accept spoken explanations when appropriate. For further challenge, require data and distinguish observation, interpretation and conclusion.

Sources and limitations

NASA Science: <https://science.nasa.gov/mercury/facts/>

Online fact sheet: <https://systeme-solaire-3d.fr/en/mercure>

Values are rounded. The artistic view changes sizes and distances for readability. Check dated information before reusing it.