

Mission: Mercury

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What type of celestial body is Mercury?

2. Where is it, or which body does it orbit?

3. Copy an important time period and say what it measures.

4. Copy a temperature or a feature of its environment.

Type	Rocky planet
Diameter	4,879 km
Mass (Earth = 1)	0.055 Earth masses
Average distance	0.39 AU · 57.9 million km
Orbital period	87.97 days
Rotation	58.65 days
Temperature	−180 to 430 °C
Main orbiting bodies	No moons

5. Choose two figures from the table and explain their units.

6. Explain this comparison in your own words: Its diameter is about 38% of Earth's.

Check and explain

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7. What is found in some permanently shadowed polar craters?

- A. Lava
- B. Water ice
- C. Forests
- D. Liquid methane

8. Which mission mapped Mercury?

- A. MESSENGER
- B. Cassini
- C. Voyager 1
- D. Perseverance

9. Does Mercury have moons?

- A. Yes, one
- B. Yes, two
- C. Yes, four
- D. No

10. What does its surface mainly resemble?

- A. An ocean planet
- B. A heavily cratered world
- C. A gas giant
- D. A frozen forest

11. Write two units from the table and the quantities they measure.

12. Why is an illustration not always drawn to scale?

13. Give one similarity and one difference compared with Earth.

Investigate like a scientist

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Text to analyse

Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun. Its enormous metallic core, cratered surface and extreme temperature contrasts tell an ancient and violent story. Water ice can survive in permanently shadowed polar craters, despite Mercury's closeness to the Sun.

14. Copy one observation or checkable fact from the text.

15. Write a scientific question you would like to investigate.

Writing mini-mission

Imagine a spacecraft studying Mercury. Describe what it observes and what it aims to measure. Write 5 to 7 sentences using at least three scientific terms. Do not invent a solid surface on a gas giant or present a hypothesis as a fact.

Scientific terms used: _____