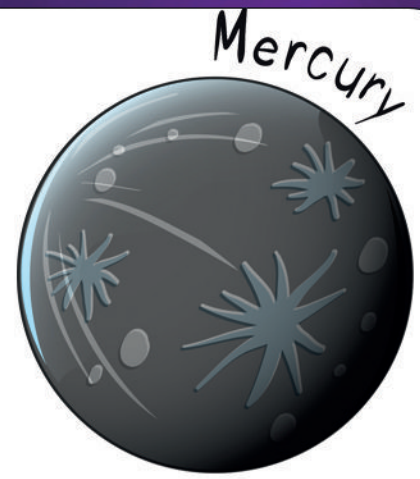


FACTS ABOUT MERCURY



"Welcome, young explorers! Today, we are embarking on an exciting journey to the planet Mercury, the closest planet to the Sun. Get ready to discover some fascinating facts about this mysterious world, where temperatures can be scorching hot during the day and freezing cold at night. Let's dive in and uncover the wonders of Mercury!"

Fun Facts about the Planet Mercury:

- 1. Sizzling Hot Surface:** Mercury is incredibly close to the Sun, causing its surface to reach scorching temperatures of up to 800 degrees Fahrenheit (430 degrees Celsius) during the day! It's the hottest planet in our solar system.
- 2. Rapid Spinning:** Despite being one of the smallest planets, Mercury spins on its axis very quickly. It completes a full rotation in just 59 Earth days, which means its days and nights are incredibly long.
- 3. Rocky Planet:** Similar to Earth, Mercury is a rocky planet. It has a solid surface with rugged mountains, vast plains, and numerous craters formed by asteroid and comet impacts over billions of years.
- 4. No Atmosphere to Breathe:** Unlike Earth, Mercury has a very thin and almost nonexistent atmosphere. This means there's no air to breathe or protect the planet's surface from the harsh solar radiation and space debris.
- 5. Cosmic Ice in Craters:** Surprisingly, despite Mercury's scorching temperatures, some of its craters near the poles contain frozen water ice! These areas are permanently shadowed from the Sun's heat, allowing ice to exist.
- 6. It's a Fast Traveler:** Mercury zooms around the Sun faster than any other planet in our solar system. It completes an orbit in just 88 Earth days, making it the speediest planet.
- 7. No Moons or Rings:** Unlike some other planets in our solar system, Mercury doesn't have any moons or rings orbiting around it. It enjoys its solitude as it journeys around the Sun.
- 8. Extreme Temperature Swings:** Due to its thin atmosphere and lack of insulation, Mercury experiences extreme temperature swings. At night, temperatures can plummet to -290 degrees Fahrenheit (-180 degrees Celsius), making it one of the coldest places in our solar system.
- 9. A Name from Ancient Mythology:** Mercury is named after the Roman messenger of the gods, known for his speed and agility. The planet's swift movement across the sky reminded astronomers of this mythical figure.
- 10. Few Visitors:** Despite being the closest planet to the Sun, Mercury is not often visited by spacecraft. Only two missions, NASA's Mariner 10 and MESSENGER, have flown by and collected data about this intriguing planet.