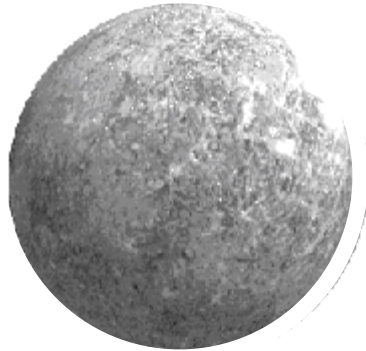


Mercury is the eighth planet in size. It is so close to the Sun that any gases or satellites get pulled away. The Sun also makes it difficult to see Mercury from the Earth.

Labels	Key Words
Atmosphere	Silicate
Mantle	Water Ice
Crust	Nickel
Core	Iron
Caloris basin	



Mercury Data File

Distance from Sun _____

Diameter _____

Mass _____

Temperature _____






Surface gravity (earth = 1) _____

Length of day _____






Length of year _____

Number of moons _____

Research Ideas

-  Which god was the planet Mercury named after?
-  Which space voyages have passed close to Mercury?
-  Why doesn't Mercury have any moons?
-  When and where can Mercury be seen from Earth?
-  What would your weight be on Mercury?

Advance Research

-  Describe Mercury's orbit.
-  What is the Caloris Basin?
-  Discuss whether it would be possible for humans to exist on Mercury.
-  Are there any future plans to visit Mercury?
-  Describe the probable structure of Mercury's interior.

Presentation Ideas

Design a wall display with diagrams, facts and big, bold headings. Make sure that your work is as neat as possible.

Give a talk to your class. Prepare some diagrams (maybe on overheads) to help illustrate your presentation.

Produce a short play about a visit to Mercury.

Write a song or poem.

Make a video.

Internet Search Terms

(we recommend "google.com")

- Mercury + "god of"
- "Mercury has been visited"
- Mercury + "no moons because"
- Mercury + "see from Earth"
- "your weight on Mercury"

Websites

- http://www.sciencemonster.com/planets_mercury.html
- <http://www.nineplanets.org/mercury.html>
- <http://www.solarviews.com/eng/mercury.htm>
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mercury_\(planet\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mercury_(planet))
- <http://pds.jpl.nasa.gov/planets/choices/mercury1.htm>
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caloris_Basin