

Name _____

Date _____



Mercury

Mercury is the planet closest to the sun. It is about the same size as Earth's moon and is covered with craters where meteorites and asteroids have crashed into it.

Mercury is the fastest-orbiting planet in our solar system. Mercury is appropriately named after the Roman God, Mercury. As the messenger of the Gods, Mercury is depicted as wearing winged sandals and traveling very fast.

People would not be able to live in Mercury. There is no water on Mercury and it has a very thin atmosphere called an exosphere. Temperatures on Mercury's surface range from 870° F to -297°F. The temperature on Mercury can change as much as 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit from day to night.

- Mercury was named after a _____ God.
a. Greek b. Roman c. Egyptian
- Mercury is the planet that is _____ the sun.
a. farthest from b. most like c. closest to
- The temperature on Mercury can change as much as _____ degrees.
a. 870 b. 1,000 c. 297
- Mercury is covered with _____.
a. craters b. water c. sunscreen
- Mercury has a thin atmosphere called an _____.
a. biosphere b. hemisphere c. exosphere