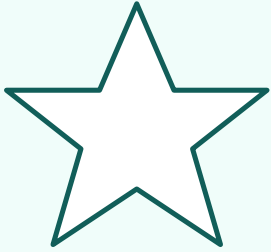


Mercury

4th Grade

The smallest planet and the closest to the Sun.



The smallest planet and the closest to the Sun — a scorched, cratered ball of rock with almost no atmosphere.

ORDER
1st

DAY
59 Earth days

YEAR
88 Earth days

MOONS
0

- A year lasts only 88 days — the shortest of any planet.
- Days are longer than years here.
- Swings from 430°C in daylight to -180°C at night.
- Covered in craters, because there is no air to burn up meteors.
- It has no moons and no rings.

LOOK FOR IT

Very hard to spot — always close to the Sun, low near sunrise or sunset.

A "day" is one spin. A "year" is one trip round the Sun. On Mercury they are nothing like ours.