

Mercury

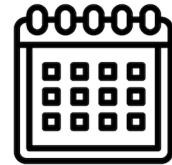
Fun fact for kids



Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun.



It's the smallest planet in our solar system.



A year on Mercury is only 88 Earth days long.



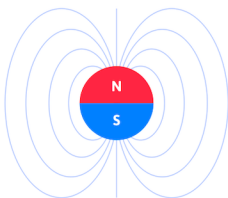
Mercury has almost no atmosphere, so it has extreme temperature changes.



Daytime temperatures on Mercury can reach 430°C (800°F).



Nighttime temperatures on Mercury can drop to -180°C (-290°F).



Mercury has a weak magnetic field, about 1% as strong as Earth's.



A day on Mercury (one full rotation) takes about 59 Earth days.



Mercury has no moons or rings.



The planet is named after the Roman messenger god, Mercury.



The spacecraft Mariner 10 was the first to visit Mercury in the 1970s.



Mercury's surface is covered with a lot of dust and rocky material.