My Book About Living on Mercury

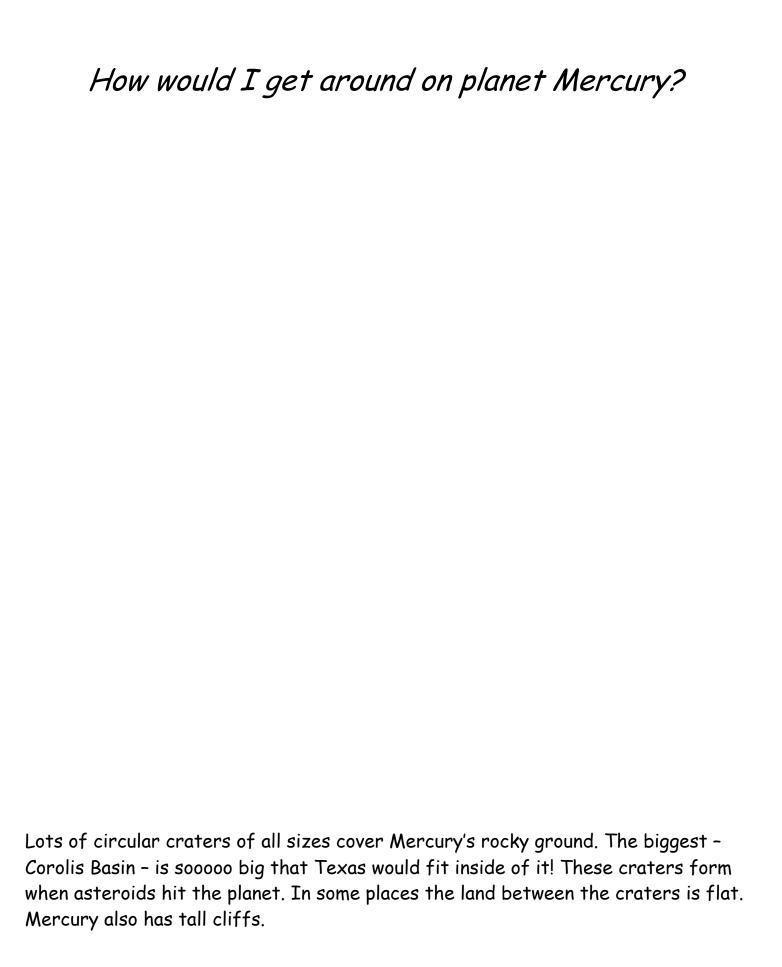
My name is
Here I am in my spacecraft, with all the things I want to take
to Mercury ready for launch. I'm all buckled up - it is going to
be a looooooooooong ride!

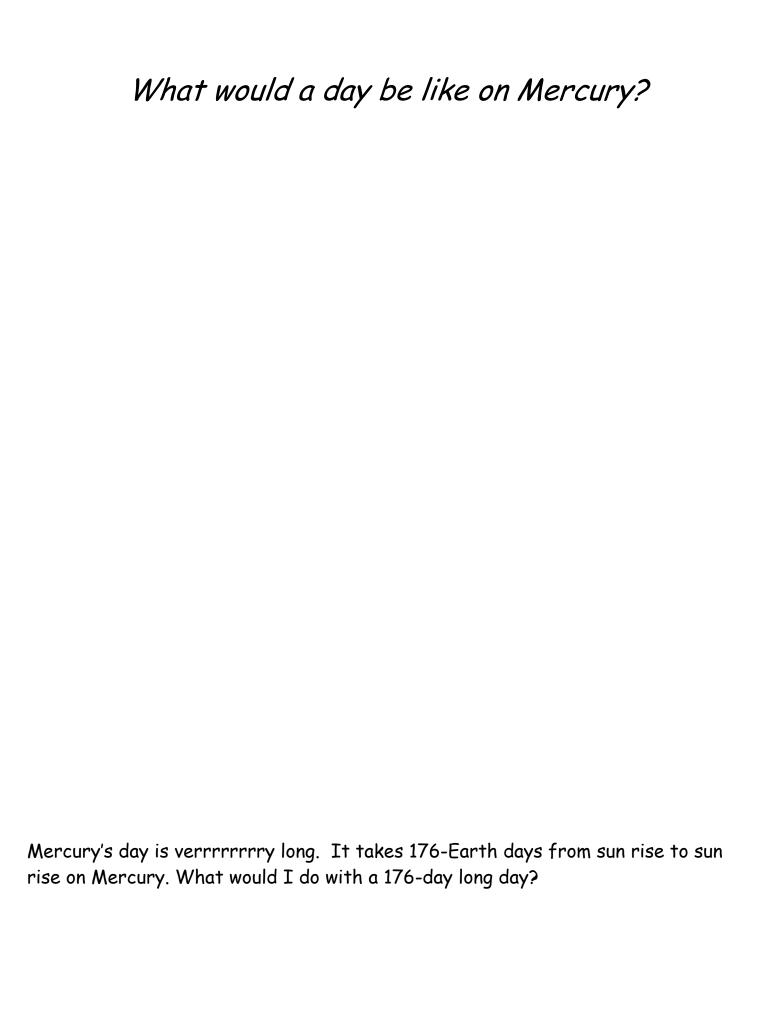
What would I wear on Mercury?

I will need a very special spacesuit to visit Mercury. It will have to protect me from very very hot and very very cold temperatures – and from dangerous radiation from our Sun. The side of the planet that faces the Sun gets very hot (over $+800^{\circ}$ F), and the side that faces away from the Sun gets very cold (nearly 300° F below zero!). That is much hotter and colder than any place on Earth!

What would I see from Mercury?

Mercury does not have an atmosphere so the sky is dark. No clouds float in the sky. Because I am closer to the Sun, the Sun is about two and a half times bigger than what we see from Earth! I can see two things in the sky that look like big bright stars - Earth and Venus - and lots and lots of stars!







MESSENGER Goes to Mercury!

The MESSENGER spacecraft left Earth in August of 2004. It will reach Mercury and begin to orbit in 2011. I will be ______ years old in 2011! MESSENGER will study the planet and take new pictures from space! MESSENGER will also help us learn more about how Mercury formed, and how it has changed over time.

