

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 loooooooooooooong 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° 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!

How would I get around on planet Mercury?

Lots of circular craters of all sizes cover Mercury's rocky ground. The biggest - Corolis Basin - is sooooo big that Texas would fit inside of it! These craters form when asteroids hit the planet. In some places the land between the craters is flat. Mercury also has tall cliffs.

What would a day be like on Mercury?

Mercury's day is verrrrrrrrry long. It takes 176-Earth days from sun rise to sun rise on Mercury. What would I do with a 176-day long day?

What does Mercury look like on the inside?

Mercury has a big center - a core - that is probably mostly made of a metal called iron. The core is surrounded by another layer (the mantle). A very thin, rocky, crust covers the surface.

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.



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