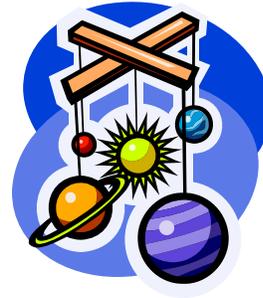


Mercury on a String

In this activity, you and your child will make a Mercury disk that can be hung in his or her room - or it can be part of a growing mobile of the planets in our solar system (added during other Family Space Day events).

What You Need:

- CD with small hole drilled in top and bottom
- Image of Mercury
- Mercury Poem on cardstock
- String or fishing line
- Scissors
- Glue



What to Do:

- Help your child cut out the image of Mercury
- Glue the image on the printed side of the CD.

Why is there not an image of the "other side" of Mercury? Mercury is a mystery! Only one spacecraft has ever visited Mercury and it sent images back to Earth of a little less than half of Mercury's surface. Because of Mercury's unique orbit and spin, we only see one side from Earth. So there is much to learn about this small planet. Never fear! We will be able to see and learn much more about Mercury from the MESSENGER mission! While it is not yet orbiting Mercury, it has flown by and has already given us images from the "unknown" areas on Mercury..

- Help your child cut out the Mercury poem .
- Loop a piece of string through the small hole in the CD at the top of Mercury and tie it off in a knot. This will be the hanger Mercury.
- Loop a second piece of string through the bottom hole in the CD. Before tying a knot, attach the Mercury Poem through its hole
- Your child now has a Mercury mobile!

Parent Prompts:

As you and your child are creating the Mercury mobile, ask them:

What do you think the other side of Mercury looks like?

How will we find out what the other side looks like?

What are the circular features that are all over Mercury's surface? How did they form?

Mercury

I am M E R C U R Y
C L O S E S T Planet to the Sun
Now that Pluto's out,
No one's smaller no, not one!

MERCURY IMAGE for CD

