Mercury

Mercury, It's Your Birthday



88

Earth days in one Mercury year



A little world with a speedy year.

First in line

Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun.

Small but speedy

It is the smallest of the eight planets. One orbit takes about 88 Earth days.

A rocky face

Many craters were made when space rocks hit Mercury.

No moon buddy

Mercury has no moons. It has no rings either.

CRATER A bowl-shaped hollow. An impact can make one.

Bea asks

Where is a year shorter?

○ On Earth ○ On Mercury

Can you find the little clay fish on this page?

Facts: NASA | science.nasa.gov/mercury/facts/

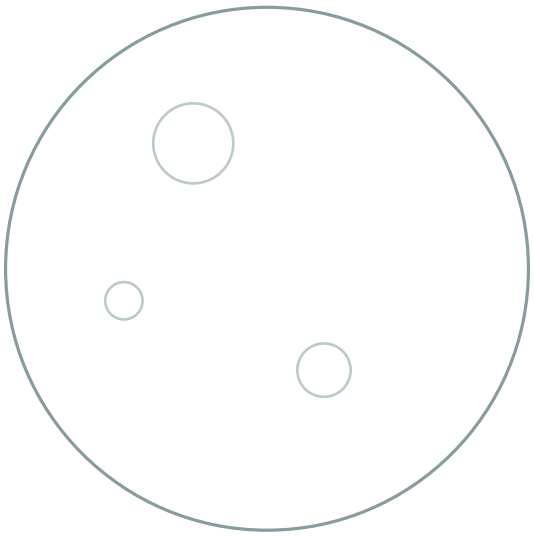
Story artwork; pictures and diagrams are not to scale.

Mercury: your mission

Use a pencil or crayons. You can tell an answer instead of writing it.

Draw Mercury's rocky face

Add big and small craters inside the circle. Then draw a party hat beside your planet for Bea's pretend party.



Read together: A birthday after every orbit

Bea celebrates when Mercury finishes a trip around the Sun. That takes about 88 Earth days. The party hat and talking planet are pretend. A year means one orbit; a spin is a different movement. Act out both with your hands.

Birthday maths

One Mercury year is about 88 Earth days. About how many Earth days pass in TWO Mercury years?

88 + 88 = _____ Earth days

For grown-ups: On Mercury. About 176 Earth days. An orbit makes a year; a spin is a different movement. The party hat is part of the story.

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