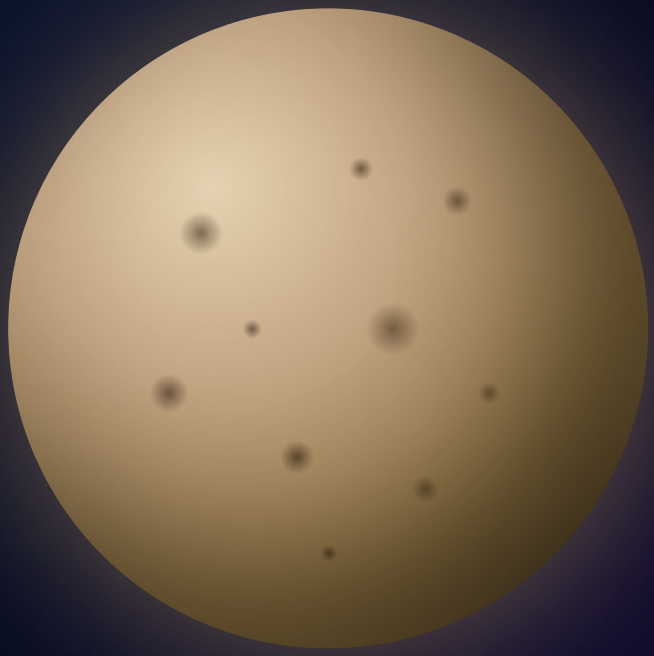
SOLAR SYSTEM SPOTLIGHT

MERCURY

The smallest planet — closest to the Sun, covered in craters, and zooming through space at 47 km per second.



1st	88	4,880	0
PLANET FROM THE SUN	EARTH DAYS = 1 MERCURY YEAR	KILOMETRES ACROSS	MOONS

★ ★ ★ DID YOU KNOW? ★ ★ ★

HOT AND COLD

On the sunny side of Mercury it is **430°C** — hot enough to melt lead. On the dark side, it drops to **−180°C**. The biggest temperature swing of any planet!

ICE IN THE SHADOWS

Even though Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun, scientists have found **frozen water** hiding in deep craters near the poles, where sunlight never reaches.