

READING PASSAGE · LEVEL 1 · EMERGING

MERCURY: THE TINY PLANET

A short reader for younger learners (Ages 6–8)

Mercury is the smallest planet. It is also the closest to the Sun. From far away, Mercury looks grey and rocky.

Mercury has lots of craters. Craters are big round holes. They were made when space rocks crashed into the planet a long, long time ago.

Mercury has no air to breathe. The sky is always black, even in the daytime. The Sun looks much bigger and brighter from Mercury than it does from Earth.

The side facing the Sun is very, very hot. The side facing away is very, very cold. There is no in-between!

Mercury has no moons. It zips around the Sun very fast — faster than any other planet.

★ WORDS TO KNOW 3 TERMS

crater
A big round hole made by something crashing into the ground.

planet
A big round world that goes around a star like the Sun.

Sun
Our star — it gives us light and heat.

★ COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS 4 QUESTIONS

1. What is special about Mercury's size and place in the solar system?

2. What are craters, and how did Mercury get so many?

3. Why is the sky on Mercury always black?

4. Does Mercury have any moons?

★ NOW YOU DRAW IT!

Draw Mercury below. Can you show its grey rocky surface and lots of round craters?