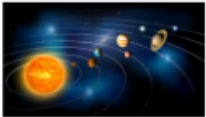


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Crash Course Astronomy #13: Mercury

Name: _____ Date: _____

You can access the video here → <https://youtu.be/PJGkZc3aRQ0?si=pdG10SZwFZnLK1U>

1. Mercury is the _____ planet to the Sun.
2. Mercury can be seen changing position night to night because it moves _____ across the sky.
3. The maximum angular separation of Mercury from the Sun is about _____ degrees.
4. Mercury goes through a complete cycle of _____, just like the Moon.
5. Mercury's average distance from the Sun is about _____ million kilometers.
6. Mercury completes one orbit around the Sun every _____ Earth days.
7. Because Mercury is small and close to the Sun, it's usually seen low on the _____.
8. Mercury has the most _____ orbit of any planet in the solar system.
9. Mercury's day is about _____ Earth days long.
10. The spin-to-orbit ratio of Mercury is _____.
11. Mercury's odd orbit and spin mean the Sun can appear to _____ in the sky and even move backward briefly.
12. The largest impact basin on Mercury is called _____ Basin.
13. The cracks seen on Mercury's surface are known as _____.
14. Mercury's core is mostly made of _____, making up about % of its radius.
15. Despite high daytime temperatures, _____ has been found in permanently shadowed craters near Mercury's poles.

Crash Course Astronomy #13: Mercury KEY

1. Mercury is the **closest** planet to the Sun.
2. Mercury can be seen changing position night to night because it moves **quickly** across the sky.
3. The maximum angular separation of Mercury from the Sun is about **28** degrees.
4. Mercury goes through a complete cycle of **phases**, just like the Moon.
5. Mercury's average distance from the Sun is about **58** million kilometers.
6. Mercury completes one orbit around the Sun every **88** Earth days.
7. Because Mercury is small and close to the Sun, it's usually seen low on the **horizon**.
8. Mercury has the most **elliptical** orbit of any planet in the solar system.
9. Mercury's day is about **59** Earth days long.
10. The spin-to-orbit ratio of Mercury is **2:3**.
11. Mercury's odd orbit and spin mean the Sun can appear to **stop** in the sky and even move backward briefly.
12. The largest impact basin on Mercury is called **Caloris** Basin.
13. The cracks seen on Mercury's surface are known as **rupes**.
14. Mercury's core is mostly made of **iron**, making up about % of its radius.
15. Despite high daytime temperatures, **water ice** has been found in permanently shadowed craters near Mercury's poles.

15 Questions

Answer Key Included

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