

Kid Scoop®

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



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Meet Mercury

Woodward is cruising by Mercury this week. Mercury is the closest planet to the sun in our solar system. Replace the missing words in his interstellar text message.

AIR **FULL** **BURN**
SURFACE **MOON** **CRASHED**

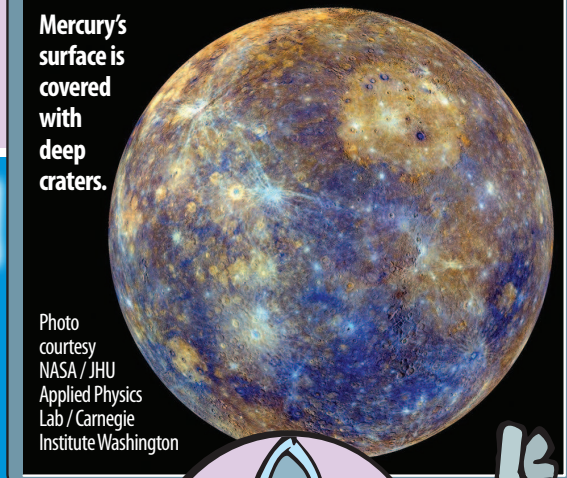
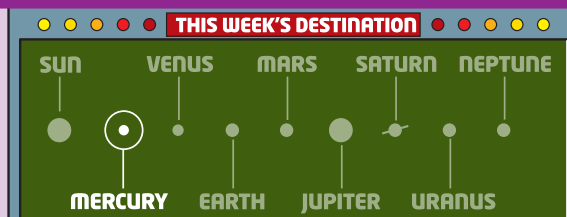
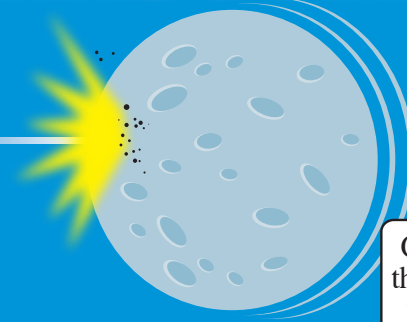


Photo courtesy NASA / JHU Applied Physics Lab / Carnegie Institute Washington

Circle every third letter for the answer.

KABOOM!



Mercury has an enormous crater called the Caloris basin. It was formed by a really big flying space rock. The impact was so strong that it formed **H** on the other side of the planet!

WRHTNIKMLBVL**D**WS

Dear Kid Scoop Readers -

Mercury is very much like our _____. It is dry, airless and _____ of craters.

Because there is nearly no _____, or atmosphere, around Mercury, flying space rocks called meteorites and asteroids have _____ into the planet's _____ leaving behind deep craters. Earth's atmosphere slows down meteorites and asteroids that hurtle towards us, and nearly all _____ up before they hit the ground.

Your spacey friend,
Woodward

Use the comparison chart at right to answer these questions.

- About how many Earth days does a day on Mercury last?
 24 59 99
- About how many times in one Earth year will Mercury orbit the sun?
 4 6 10

	MERCURY	EARTH
DISTANCE FROM THE SUN	36 MILLION MILES	93 MILLION MILES
TIME TO ORBIT THE SUN	88 DAYS	365 DAYS
ORBIT SPEED	107,372 MILES PER HOUR	70,000 MILES PER HOUR
LENGTH OF DAY	1,416 HOURS	24 HOURS
DIAMETER	3,100 MILES	7,926 MILES
NUMBER OF MOONS	0	1

Hot vs. Cold

Mercury has no atmosphere to protect it from the sun's heat, or to capture and hold in the heat on the dark side.

Mercury's sunny side can heat up to 750°F (399°C). The dark side is much, much colder with a temperature that can go down to -328°F (-200°C).

Find the differences between the hot side and the cold side in this silly picture.



Extra! Extra!
Mercury Adjectives
Look through the newspaper to find five adjectives that describe Mercury.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Follow simple written directions.

Kid Scoop® Puzzler

How Mercury Got Its Name

Mercury zips around the sun every 88 days – faster than any other planet. It gets its name from the quickest of the ancient gods – Mercury, the messenger of the gods. Mercury was depicted as wearing sandals with wings on them, the secret to his great speed.



All but one of these running shoes has an exact match. Can you find it?

Standards Link: Earth Science: Students know about the sun, planets and stars.

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle. Then look for each word in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

R E G N E S S E M C
A S T E R O I D S R
E R E H P S O M T A
C M S G O E E D T
A R O K L R A C U E
P D R T C R B R I R
S A R U K O I I T S
B U R N L A R P T H
H Y N O I T C I R F

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop® LESSON LIBRARY

Numbers Game

Find and circle as many numbers as you can find on one newspaper page. What is the largest number you can find? Add up your numbers. Find the average of your numbers.

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

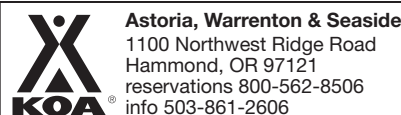


How do you know when the moon has had enough to eat?

ANSWER: When it's full!

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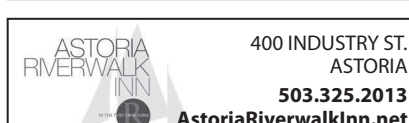
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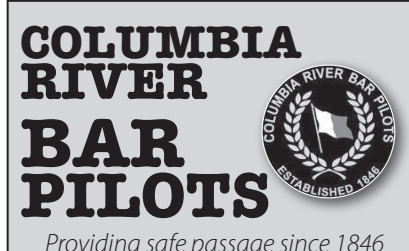
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