

# 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**



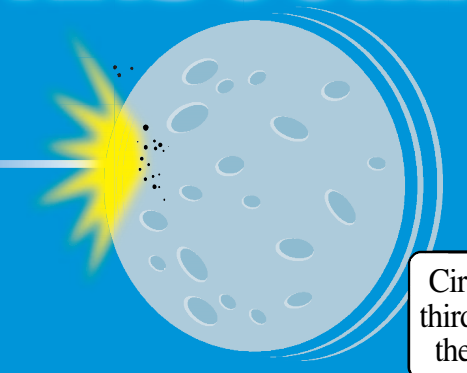
Dear Kid Scoop Readers -

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

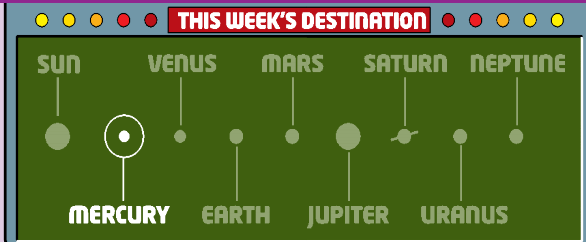
## KABOOM!



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!

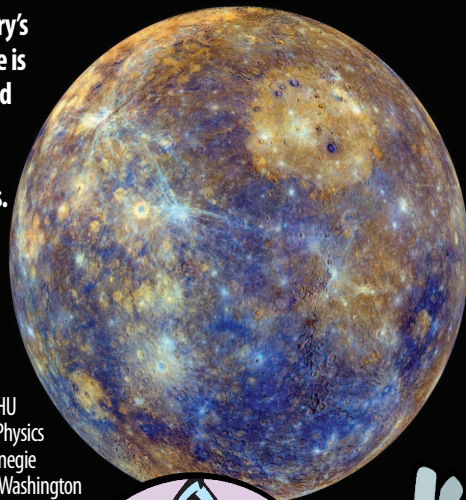
WRHTNIKMLBVLDWS

Circle every third letter for the answer.



Mercury's surface is covered with deep craters.

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



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 Together:

### Fraction Funnies

To find out the answer to the riddle, find the letters asked for in each step and write them in order.

**If a meteorite hits a planet, what do you call the ones that miss?**

Circle the first 3/4 of this word:

**METER**

Circle the last 3/4 of this word:

**VIDEO**

Circle the first 3/4 of this word:

**WREATH**

Circle the middle 3/4 of this word:

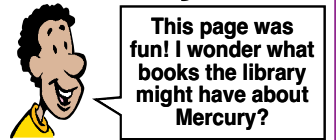
**TONS**

Circle the last 3/4 of this word:

**SONGS**

## What a Character!

### Curiosity is ...



... wondering about and exploring our world and beyond.

## Kid Scoo-doku

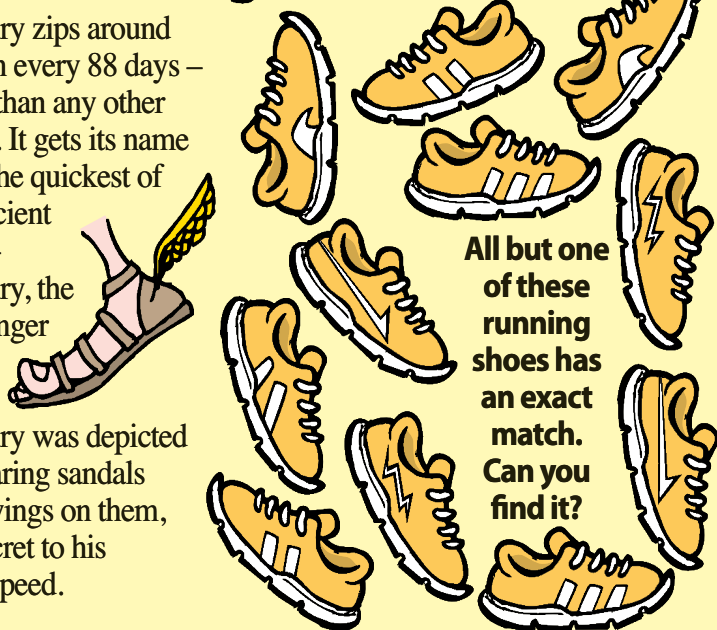
Complete the grid by using all the letters in the word YEAR in each vertical and horizontal row. Each letter should only be used once in each row. Some spaces have been filled in for you.

Y	E	A	R
A			Y

## 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.

- ATMOSPHERE
- MESSENGER
- ASTEROIDS
- FRICION
- MERCURY
- CRATERS
- HURTLE
- ORBIT
- SPACE
- ROCKS
- EARTH
- DARK
- BURN
- GODS
- AIR

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	E	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

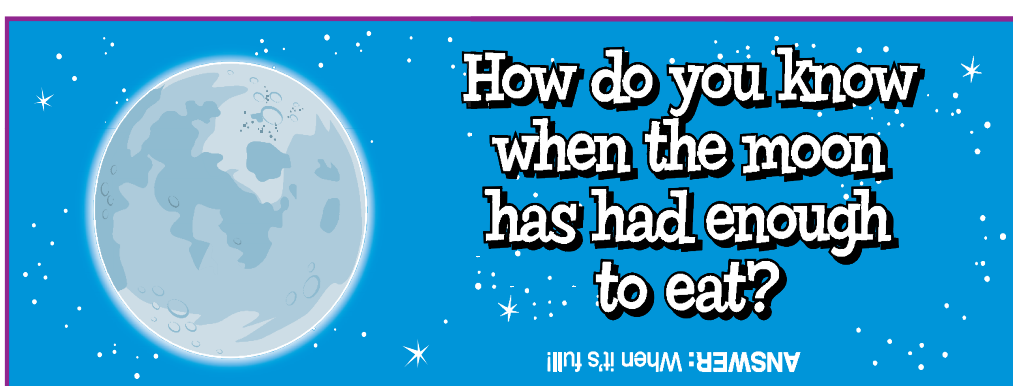
**Standards Link:** Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

## 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!

## Write On!

### When I Grow Up

What do you want to be when you grow up? Write a paragraph about the job you would like to have one day and why you would be good at it.