

Know Your Planets:

MERCURY!

This is a picture of Mercury. Color in the cross-section drawing below using what you've learned.

Name:

Mercury is named after the Roman god Mercury, messenger of the gods.

Size:

Mercury is the smallest planet in our solar system. Its diameter is one third the the size of Earth's.

What's It Made Of?:

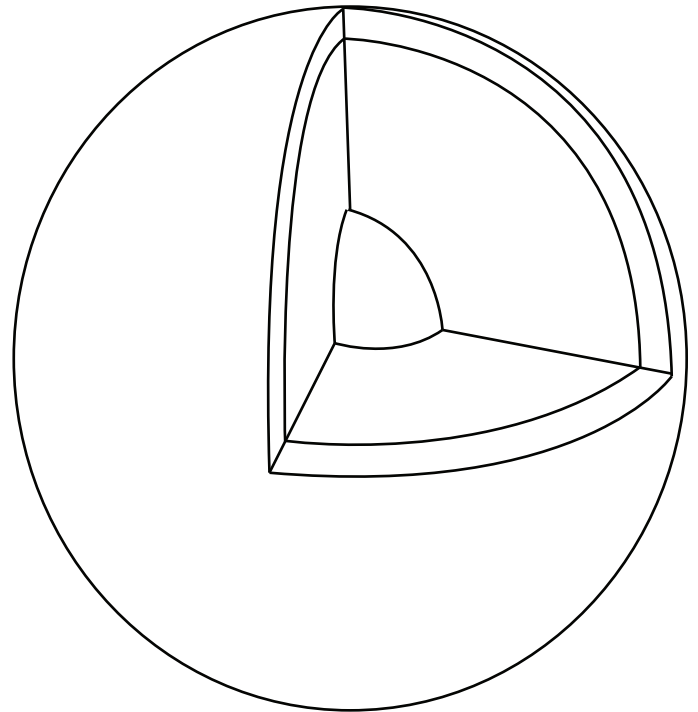
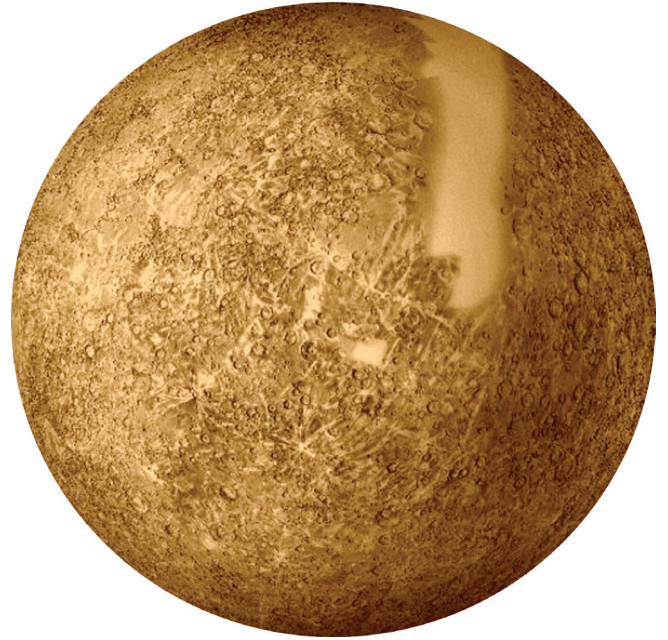
Mercury is one of the four terrestrial planets, meaning it is made mostly of rock. Its crust is stone, the mantle in the middle is silicates, and the core is iron.

Where Is It?:

Mercury is the closest planet to the sun. Earth is three times farther away.

Orbit and Rotation:

It takes 176 Earth days for Mercury to complete one rotation and 88 Earth days to orbit once around the sun. This means that one day on Mercury lasts 2 years.



Scrambles:

 Unscramble the words for the answer.

The section beneath the crust of a planet is called the:

TENALM

Mercury has a strong magnetic field because of this element at its core:

NROI

Mercury is only visible from Earth at these times every day:

SREINUS and TUN SSE