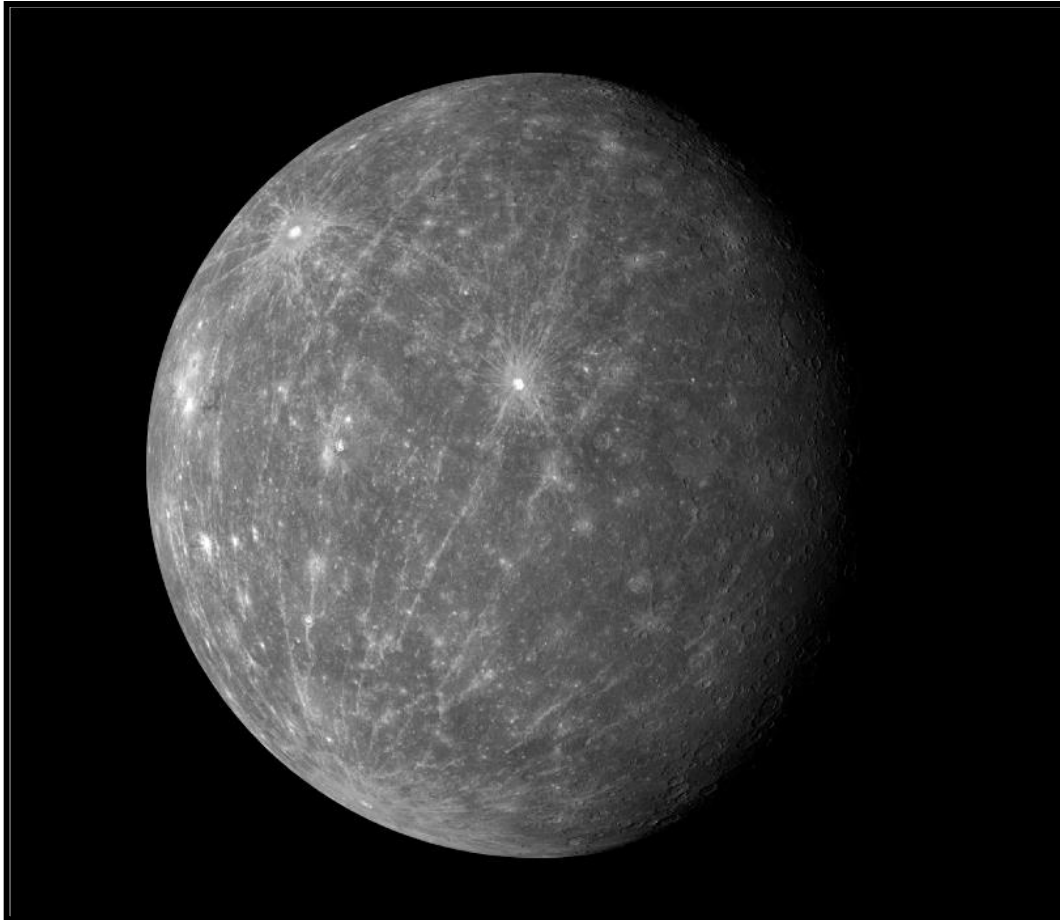


TAS > Mercury >

<https://space-facts.com/planets/>

The four smaller inner planets, Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars, are terrestrial planets, being primarily composed of rock and metal

Mercury > Named after the Roman deity Mercury, the messenger of the gods.



Diameter:	4,879 km
Mass:	3.29×10^{23} kg (0.06 Earths)
Moons:	None
Orbit Distance:	57,909,227 km (0.39 AU)
Orbit Period:	88 days
Surface Temperature:	-173 to 427°C

TAS > Mercury >

<https://space-facts.com/planets/>

The four smaller inner planets, Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars, are terrestrial planets, being primarily composed of rock and metal

Mercury > Named after the Roman deity Mercury, the messenger of the gods.

Mercury is the smallest planet.

Mercury does not have any moons or rings.

Mercury is only the second hottest planet. Despite being further from the Sun, Venus experiences higher temperatures. The surface of Mercury which faces the Sun sees temperatures of up to 427°C, whilst on the alternate side this can be as low as -173°C. This is due to the planet having no atmosphere to help regulate the temperature.

Mercury is the **most cratered planet in the Solar System**. Unlike many other planets which “self-heal” through natural geological processes, the surface of Mercury is covered in craters. These are caused by numerous encounters with asteroids and comets. Most Mercurian craters are named after famous writers and artists. **Any crater larger than 250 kilometres in diameter is referred to as a Basin**. The Caloris Basin is the largest impact crater on Mercury covering approximately 1,550 km in diameter and was discovered in 1974 by the Mariner 10 probe.

Mercury has an atmosphere (sort of). Mercury has just 38% the gravity of Earth, this is too little to hold on to what atmosphere it has which is blown away by solar winds. However while gases escape into space they are constantly being replenished at the same time by the same solar winds, radioactive decay and dust caused by micrometeorites

Want To Know More?

Contact TAS >



Thaxted Astronomical Society

07789 933 111

ThaxtedAS@BTInternet.Com

www.ThaxtedAS.Com

