

# MERCURY

- Mercury is the smallest planet and closest to sun.
- Due to its proximity to the sun, Mercury is normally obscured by sunlight and can only be seen just after sunset and before sunrise.
- Because the appearance of Mercury heralds the coming of the sun, the Greeks named it Mercury, the messenger of the gods.
- Depending upon the time of day and where on the planet the measurement is taken, Mercury's temperature can be over 400 degrees Celsius or below -120 degrees Celsius.



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- Mercury has no atmosphere due to its proximity to the sun (it's atmosphere was boiled off long ago).
- Mercury has been visited twice.
- Mercury rotates very slowly. There are approximately one-and-a-half Mercury days in a Mercury year. (Put a little differently, it takes 88 earth days for it to orbit the sun once, and 58 earth days for it to rotate once about its axis.)
- Hubble can't view Mercury due to its proximity to the sun.
- Due to the fact that it has no tilt, Mercury has no seasons.

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