

Name: _____ Subject: Year 5 Science
Date: _____ Unit: 5e Earth, sun and moon

The Planets

Mercury is the nearest planet to the sun.

It is approximately 58,000,000km from the Sun, therefore the side that faces the Sun becomes very hot, and the dark side facing away from the Sun becomes extremely cold.

Mercury doesn't have any water or air so it cannot support life.

Mercury was heavily hit by comets and asteroids which made craters on the surface.

It takes Mercury 88 days to orbit the Sun, which is one Mercury year.

Mercury appears bright to us from Earth but can only be seen in the morning and in evening twilight and is similar in appearance to the Moon.

The planet was named after the Roman god Mercury. To the Greeks Mercury was known as 'Apollo' when it appeared in the morning and 'Hermes' when it appeared in the evening.

