

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Planet Mercury Multiple Choice Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. The name of the NASA probe that will reach Mercury in 2011 is
  - a. MESSENGER
  - b. Mariner
  - c. Voyager
  - d. Challenger
2. The diameter of Mercury is about what percent of Earth's diameter?
  - a. 20%
  - b. 40%
  - c. 60%
  - d. 80%
3. Where is Mercury located in the solar system?
  - a. Between the Earth and the Sun
  - b. Mercury is the planet closest to the Sun
  - c. Both a. and b. above
  - d. None of the above
4. A year on Mercury is
  - a. The same as a year on Earth
  - b. Shorter than a year on Earth
  - c. Longer than a year on Earth
  - d. Shorter than a month on Earth
5. What color would the sky look if a human went to Mercury?
  - a. Blue
  - b. Pink
  - c. Black
  - d. The colors of the sunset
6. The surface of Mercury looks a lot like
  - a. Mountains
  - b. The surface of the Sun
  - c. The surface of Earth
  - d. The surface of the Moon



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### Planet Mercury Short Answer Questions

1. Do some research and write a short report about the MESSENGER space probe.
2. Do some research and write a short report about the Mariner 10 space probe.
3. With your classmates, create a model of the elliptical orbits of the Earth and Mercury and demonstrate how sometimes the planets can be closer together than other times.
4. Draw two circles to represent the Earth and Mercury. Make sure that the diameter of Mercury is 40% the diameter of Earth in your drawing.
5. How many years go by on Mercury for every year on Earth?
6. Can ordinary people with telescopes see Mercury every day that's clear enough for using a telescope? Explain your answer.
7. Would you like to work as a NASA scientist and gather more information about Mercury? Explain your answer.



## Planet Mercury Answer Key

### Multiple Choice

1. a.
2. b.
3. c.
4. b.
5. c.
6. d.

### Short Answer

1. Individual response
2. Individual response
3. Individual response
4. Individual response
5. 365 days per Earth year/88 days per Mercury year = about 4 Mercury years go by for each Earth year.
6. Because of the elliptical orbits and varying speeds of both planets, Mercury is not always visible to people on earth, even with telescopes. Sometimes Earth and Mercury are on different sides of the Sun.
7. Individual response

