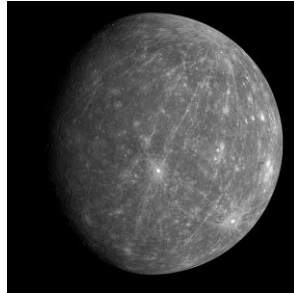


# Oscars Space Facts Sheet

2020

## Mercury



Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun but surprisingly not the hottest planet in our solar system. It orbits the Sun at 29 miles per second and takes 88 Earth years to complete a full orbit.

The surface on Mercury closely resembles the surface as our moon and has no atmosphere.

It is impossible to determine who discovered Mercury first, however, it was first observed with the help of a telescope in the early 17<sup>th</sup> Century by Galileo Galilei. Galileo didn't manage to capture Mercury's phases, this would be observed later by astronomer Giovanni Zupi in 1639, and thus he discovered the planet.

Mercury appears as a dark grey planet because it is made up of large and small craters.

### DID YOU KNOW ?

Mercury has the most craters in the solar system and you could fit Western Europe inside its largest crater.

## Facts and Figures

- Mercury is the smallest planet in our solar system
- Named after the Roman messenger God
- Temperature reaches 430 degrees Celsius during the day
- Orbits the sun by travelling at 29 miles per second.
- Mercury is 36 million miles away from the Sun
- A day on Mercury lasts 59 Earth Days