Name: _____ Date: _____

A Year on Mercury Is Very Short

Circle group

A year is how long a planet takes to go around the sun once. On Earth, a year is about twelve months.

Mercury is the closest planet to the sun. Its path is short, and it moves fast. It goes around the sun in less than three of our months. So a year on Mercury is short!

If you lived on Mercury, you would have a birthday every few months. You would get older fast.

Planets far from the sun have a long trip. They move slowly. A year there is very long.

Questions

1. What is a year?

_____

_____

2. Which planet is closest to the sun?

_____

_____

3. About how long is a year on Earth?

_____

_____

4. How often would you have a birthday on Mercury?

_____

_____

5. Is a year on a planet far from the sun short or long?

_____

_____

Words to know

year: the time a planet needs to circle the sun once
path: the way something travels from place to place
closest: nearest to something

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

A Year on Mercury Is Very Short

Triangle group

A year is the time it takes a planet to go all the way around the sun. On Earth, a year is about twelve months long.

Mercury is the planet closest to the sun. It has a short path to travel, and it moves fast. It zooms around the sun in less than three of our months. That means a year on Mercury is very short!

If you lived on Mercury, you would have a birthday every few months. You would get older very quickly.

Planets that are far from the sun have a long trip around it. They also move more slowly. A year on those planets lasts a very long time.

Questions

1. What is a year?

_____

_____

2. Which planet is closest to the sun?

_____

_____

3. About how long is a year on Earth?

_____

_____

4. How would birthdays be different if you lived on Mercury?

_____

_____

5. Would a planet far from the sun have a short year or a long year?

_____

_____

Words to know

year: the time a planet needs to circle the sun once
path: the way something travels from place to place
zooms: moves very fast
closest: nearest to something

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

A Year on Mercury Is Very Short

Square group

A year is the amount of time it takes a planet to travel all the way around the sun. On Earth, one year lasts about twelve months.

Mercury is the planet nearest to the sun. It has a short path to follow, and it moves very quickly along that path. It races around the sun in less than three of our months. That means a year on Mercury is remarkably short!

If you lived on Mercury, you would celebrate a birthday every few months, and you would grow older at a startling speed.

Planets that are far from the sun have a much longer journey around it. They also travel more slowly, so a year on those planets lasts a very long time.

Questions

1. What is a year on a planet?

_____

_____

2. Which planet is nearest to the sun?

_____

_____

3. About how many months does a year on Earth last?

_____

_____

4. How often would you celebrate a birthday if you lived on Mercury?

_____

_____

5. Why does a planet far from the sun have a long year?

_____

_____

Words to know

year: the time a planet needs to circle the sun once

path: the way something travels from place to place

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: A Year on Mercury Is Very Short

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: A Year on Mercury Is Very Short

Easier · 93 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.9

1. How long a planet takes to go around the sun once.
2. Mercury.
3. About twelve months.
4. Every few months.
5. Long, because the trip is long and the planet moves slowly.

Triangle: A Year on Mercury Is Very Short

This passage · 113 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.9

1. The time it takes a planet to go all the way around the sun.
2. Mercury.
3. About twelve months.
4. You would have one every few months.
5. A long year, because it has a long trip and moves slowly.

Square: A Year on Mercury Is Very Short

Harder · 123 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.2

1. The amount of time it takes the planet to travel all the way around the sun.
2. Mercury.
3. About twelve months.
4. Every few months.
5. It has a longer journey to make and it travels more slowly.