DAILY Warm-Up 3

Name _____ Date _____

MERCURY

Did you know that Mercury is the closest planet to the sun? It is also the eighth-largest planet. This means that it is not a very big planet. Mercury has been visited by one spacecraft. The name of the spacecraft was the *Mariner 10*. It flew by Mercury three times. In many ways, Mercury is very similar to the moon. There are a lot of craters on Mercury. Mercury does not have any known moons.

When looking up at the sky, it is sometimes possible to see Mercury with a pair of binoculars around sunrise or sunset. The temperature on Mercury can be very extreme. It is so close to the sun that it gets very hot during the day, but very cold at night. Mercury is about 36 million miles away from the sun. As far as we know, Mercury does not have any water, and it is black and brown in color. Mercury rotates on its axis very slowly but orbits the sun very quickly.

The surface of Mercury seems to show that there may have been volcanoes at one time on Mercury. Mercury orbits so close to the sun that sometimes it can be hard to see. Mercury is never far from the sun in the sky. The glare of the sun is so bright that you can see Mercury best at twilight.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following statements is not found in the reading passage?
   a. Mercury is the closest planet to the sun.
   b. Mercury orbits close to the sun, so it is hard to see at times.
   c. Mercury is one-third the size of Earth.
   d. It is believed that there were once volcanoes on Mercury.

2. What inferences can you make about Mercury, being it is the closest planet to the sun?
   a. There are probably glaciers there.
   b. It is very hot in temperature.
   c. It is the most likely planet to have life on it.
   d. It is made up of all gases.

3. Mercury revolves very _____ around the sun.
   a. quickly
   b. inverted
   c. steadily
   d. slowly

4. The purpose of the third paragraph is to . . .
   a. inform the reader about Mercury's surface.
   b. inform the reader about Mercury's temperatures.
   c. inform the reader on how best to see Mercury in the sky.

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