

Date: _____

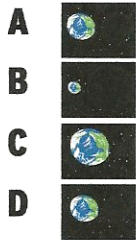
Name: _____

Class: _____

1 How does Mercury's orbit around the sun compare to its rotation on its axis?

- A** It rotates slowly and orbits quickly
- B** It orbits slowly and rotates quickly
- C** It orbits quickly and rotates quickly
- D** It orbits slowly and rotates slowly

2 How large is Mercury compared to Earth?



3 What makes it difficult for astronomers to see Mercury? Choose the best answer.

- A** Its location in the solar system
- B** Its size
- C** Its distance from Earth
- D** Its chemical composition

4 Which word best describes what nights on Mercury are like?

- A** Balmy
- B** Cool
- C** Hot
- D** Frigid

5 If you want to see Mercury in the sky, when is the best time to look?

- A** Around midnight
- B** Around 6:30 p.m.
- C** Around noon
- D** During a lunar eclipse

6 If you are 10 years old in Earth years, how long have you lived in Mercury years?

- A** 3 years
- B** 9 and a half years
- C** 20 years
- D** 40 years

7 Mercury's orbit is extremely eccentric. What does "eccentric" mean?

- A** Circular
- B** Unusual
- C** Elliptical
- D** Regular

8 How do days on Mercury compare to days on Earth?

- A** Days on Mercury are slightly longer
- B** Days on Mercury are slightly shorter
- C** Days on Mercury are much longer
- D** Days on Mercury are much shorter

9 What can you infer about the Mariner 10 probe, which visited Mercury in 1974?

- A** It had a crew of three astronauts
- B** It returned to Earth in early 1975
- C** It traveled farther than any other American spacecraft
- D** It was an unmanned spacecraft

10 What's the best description of Mercury's core?

- A** Metallic
- B** Rocky
- C** Frozen
- D** Gaseous