



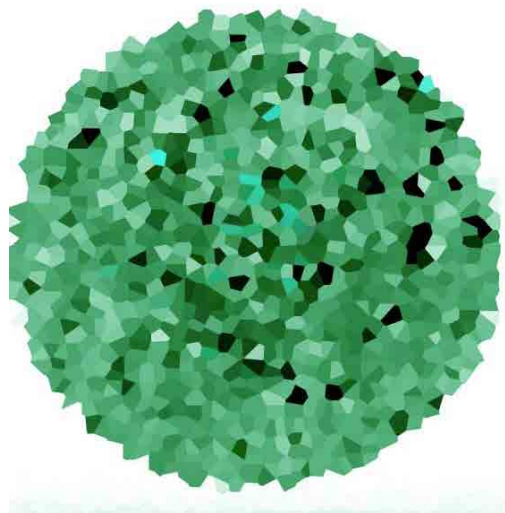
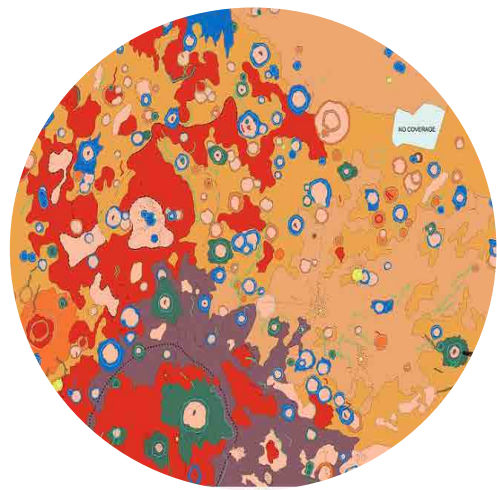
Activity 1: Impressive Mercury

Mercury is the smallest and fastest planet in the Solar System – zooming through space at very high speed.

Mercury is a rocky planet with a surface similar to that of our moon. It has many craters, boulders and giant cliffs. It is very hot during the day and very cold at night. It is the closest planet to the Sun.

To Do: We have many images of Mercury, some are photographs and some are made by artists based on the descriptions made by scientists and astronomers. See samples below.

Create your own image of Mercury by painting or drawing or making a collage using colourful patterned scrap paper.





Activity 2: Ice Caves on Mercury?

The robotic space craft 'The Messenger' discovered that there are pockets of water and ice on Mercury. Scientists believe that this water was brought to Mercury by icy comets crashing into the planet during the early history of the Solar System. Billions of tonnes of ice crystals could exist in these frozen pits!

To Do: Paint an imaginary picture of an ice crystal cave.



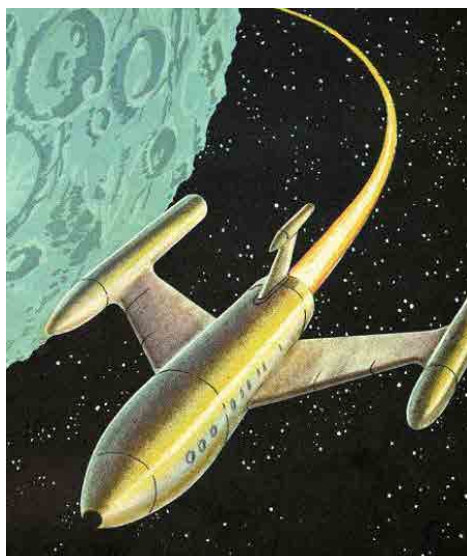
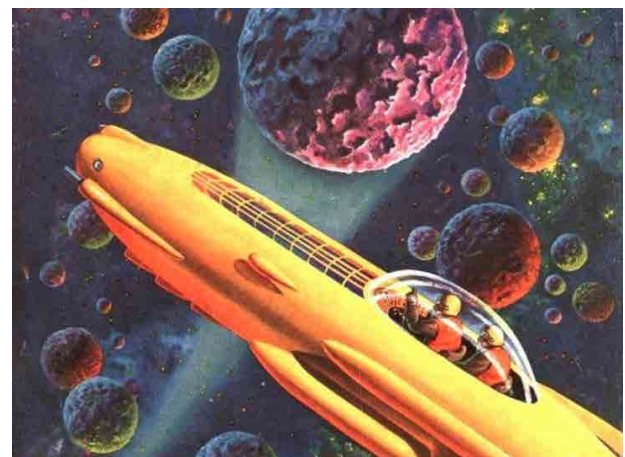


Activity 3: Zooming Around On Mercury

Mercury zooms through space at a very high speed (170,500km/h) so we can imagine that in a not-so-distant future one of the most popular sport on Mercury could be speed racing.

There are amazing cliffs and caters on Mercury, the most impressive is called Carneige Rupes with walls nearly 2 km high! The surface on Mercury would make a great obstacle course for high-tech racing cars. Drivers could speed-race close to the cliff edge, dodging or spiraling through craters.

To Do: Design a space racer or create a sci-fi comic strip about a famous Mercury space racer character.





Activity 4: The Magic of Comets

Comets are made from bits of ice, dust and gas. From Earth they look beautiful with a brilliant bright tail streaming behind them. Planets like Mercury are covered by craters that were created by comets crashing into them during the early history of the Solar System.

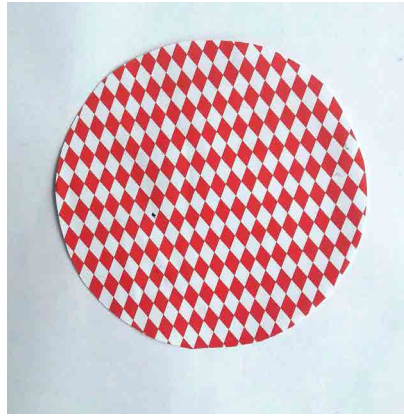
To Do: Comets have been painted and drawn by artists for hundreds of years. Below are some examples from prints, painting and photographs by artists. Draw, paint or make a collage of your own comet inspired by these images or make a 3D comet following the simple instructions provided on the next page.



HOW TO MAKE A COMET



Choose a coloured or patterned sheet of paper. Trace a circle around a saucer with a pencil.



Cut around the circle.



Fold the circle in half.



Fold the half circle in half for two more folds.



Cut out a triangular shape.



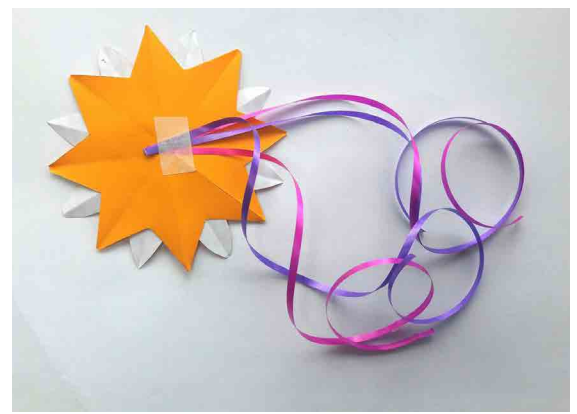
Open and flatten out the paper with your hand.



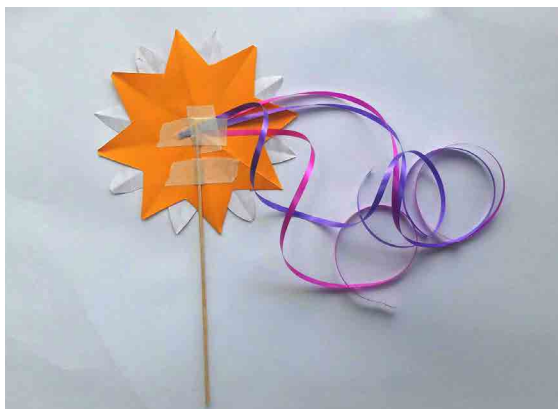
Take a second sheet of paper with contrasting colours from the first and repeat the steps.



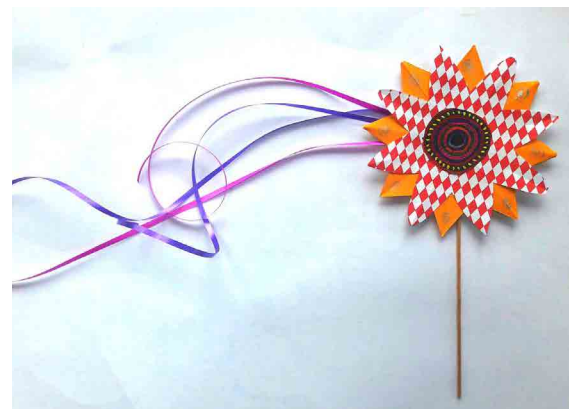
Glue the two stars together and decorate as you wish.



Cut a few lengths of coloured ribbon. Tape it at the back of the star.



Take a wooden stick and tape it also at the back of the star.



Here is your comet. You can make a variety of them using different paper, glitter and decorations.



Activity 5: Meet the Mercurials

We humans love to tell and write stories. We have created many stories about going to into space and meeting other life forms. This type of story telling is called science fiction or sci-fi for short. Sci-fi are imaginative stories about the future, new technology, other life forms, space and time travel.

To Do: Imagine you are writing a sci-fi story set on Mercury where your hero meets the Mercurials (fictional habitants of Mercury). Include pictures with your story, create your own characters, creatures and vegetation. Be inspired by the examples below.

