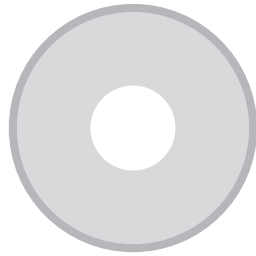


# THE ROCKY PLANETS



In our Solar System the four closest planets to the Sun are terrestrial: Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars.



All have a metallic core with silicon-rich mantle and crust.



Named for Roman gods (except Earth which comes from early German word for the ground).



The terrestrial planets have been known since prehistoric times as they are visible by eye.

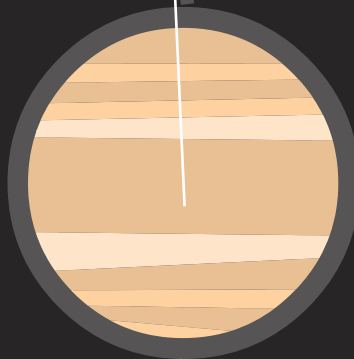
Its year is only 88 Earth days long



## MERCURY

**ATMOSPHERE** Trace, 42% Oxygen  
**TEMPERATURE °C** -173 to 427  
**WATER** Trace ice  
**MOONS** 0

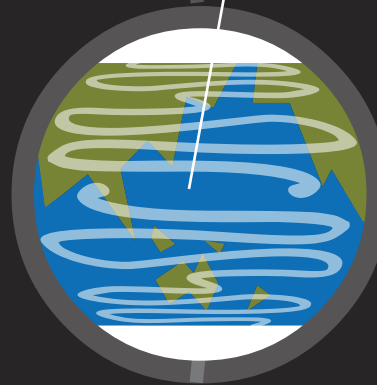
Spins counter-clockwise probably as a result of a big collision



## VENUS

**DENSE**, 97% CO<sub>2</sub>  
 462  
**NEGLECTIBLE**  
 0

100% of the known life in the Universe is found here



## EARTH

**THICK**, 78% Nitrogen  
 -93 to 57  
 70% surface  
 1

Can have blue sunsets



## MARS

**THIN**, 96% CO<sub>2</sub>  
 -87 to -5  
 Polar + subsurface ice  
 2