



A Science Reader • Grades 1-2

Printable Scholar Readers



Kit the fox flies his rocket toward the Sun. It gets so hot that his ice pop melts! Which planet is the hottest?



The Sun is a giant ball of hot, glowing gas. Eight planets travel around it, each on its own path called an orbit.



Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun. In the daytime it is hotter than an oven. But at night it gets colder than a freezer, because it has almost no air to hold the heat in.



Venus is wrapped in a super thick blanket of gas and clouds. The blanket of air around a planet is called its atmosphere. Venus's atmosphere lets the Sun's heat in, but it won't let the heat out.



So the heat builds up and up. Venus is the hottest planet of all, even hotter than Mercury!



That night, Kit looks up at the stars. Our Sun is a star too! Almost every star you see at night is a sun, very far away.

## Talk About It

- 1 Why does Mercury get so cold at night?  
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- 2 What is an atmosphere?  
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- 3 Why is Venus hotter than Mercury, even though it is farther from the Sun?  
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## Words to Know

planet • orbit • atmosphere  
Mercury • Venus • star

Read me 3 times!

