

POP! TEACHER RESOURCE

Lesson Plan

Looking at Layers

Lesson Plan for *Mercury*

Grade 1

Objective

To help students use pictures and text to identify similarities and differences among the layers and surfaces that the planets in our solar system have.

Things Needed

- *Mercury* book
- Access to the “Mercury” web page on the Pop! website:
<https://popbooksonline.com/planets/mercury/>

Before the Activity

Read the *Mercury* book out loud to the class. Open the “Mercury” web page in your internet browser and click on the “Learn More” tab.

Activity

Open the book to page 10 and have students look at the infographic. This page shows the layers that make up the planet Mercury and the layers that make up the planet Earth. Ask students to list ways that the layers of these planets are similar and different.

- Similar: Both planets have a crust on the outside. Both planets have a core in the middle. Both planets have a mantle between the crust and the core.
- Different: Earth’s core has two parts (inner and outer), and Mercury’s has just one. Mercury’s core takes up more space and goes closer the surface than Earth’s core does.

Explain that both Earth and Mercury have a hard crust. But not all planets have a solid outer surface. Read the text from the “Learn More” tab of the “Mercury” web page aloud to students. Then ask the following questions:

- Which planets in our solar system are rocky? (Answer: Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars)



- Which planets do not have a solid surface? (Answer: Jupiter, Uranus, Saturn, and Neptune)
- What are these planets made of? (Answer: gas)

Evaluation

Could the students find similarities and differences between Earth and Mercury based on the image? Could they recall details from the text about the rest of the planets?

Standards

This lesson plan may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational texts, grade 1 (RI 1.7), and the National Science Education Standards' Content Standard D, grades K–4.

