

Inner Planets

- inner planets = terrestrial planets = ^{small,} dense, rocky

Mercury:

- 38% of your weight; prograde
- less massive
- 1 day = 59 earth days
- 1 yr = 88 "

Venus:

- less dense and smaller than Earth
- less massive
- retrograde rotation (clockwise)

atmosphere

Venus (cont'd): ↑ 90X the Earth's pressure.

- air = CO₂ + acids
- greenhouse effect (CO₂ traps heat)
- hottest planet
- surfaced mapped by radar waves.
- has volcanoes

Earth:

- changing weather pattern
- warm enough to keep water from freezing due to its distance from the sun.