Atmosphere

# Earth

For nearly 500 million years after its formation, the Earth had a constant temperature of 874.68 degrees Celsius (2000 degrees Fahrenheit). Constituted mainly of iron and silicates, it also contained small amounts of radioactive elements, mainly uranium, thorium and potassium. As they decayed, these elements produced radiation that gradually heated the surface, melting the iron and silicates. The iron sank toward the center, forcing the lighter silicates to come to the surface and causing the powerful process that formed the Earth's surface as we know it today, and as it continues to progress.

The Earth's atmosphere is more than () high. From sea level to an altitude of, it is composed of 78% nitrogen and 21% oxygen, the rest being a combination of argon, carbon dioxide, neon, helium, krypton, xenon and other gases in small proportions.

# Venus

Shrouded in mystery, Venus, our closest neighbour, is named after the Roman goddess of love. For some unknown reason, Venus rotates on its axis in the opposite direction, that is, in the opposite direction of its rotation around the Sun. Venus' veil of mystery consists of an impenetrable layer of clouds of sulphuric acid covering an atmosphere composed of 96% carbon dioxide.

# Mercury

Mercury is named after the winged-footed messenger of the Roman gods. It orbits its orbit at a dizzying speed of 48 kilometers per second, making a year on Mercury only 88 Earth days. On the other hand, a rotation around its axis – one day – lasts 59 Earth days.30 miles

Mercury does not have what we call an atmosphere, which is a gaseous envelope that produces clouds and changes in precipitation or protects the planet's surface from solar radiation. Mercury's weak magnetic field captures extremely few charged particles from the Sun.

# Mars

It was because of its blood-red color that the Romans called Mars after their god of war. This color comes from the iron oxide accumulated on the surface of the planet. Canal-like configurations have long led to speculation that it may be possible to find water on Mars, which could indicate the existence of some form of life on the planet.

Mars likely developed its atmosphere by expelling gases from the planet's interior, like Earth. But Mars, whose mass is just 10% that of, has insufficient gravity to hold lighter gases. Today, Mars' atmosphere consists mostly of carbon dioxide.