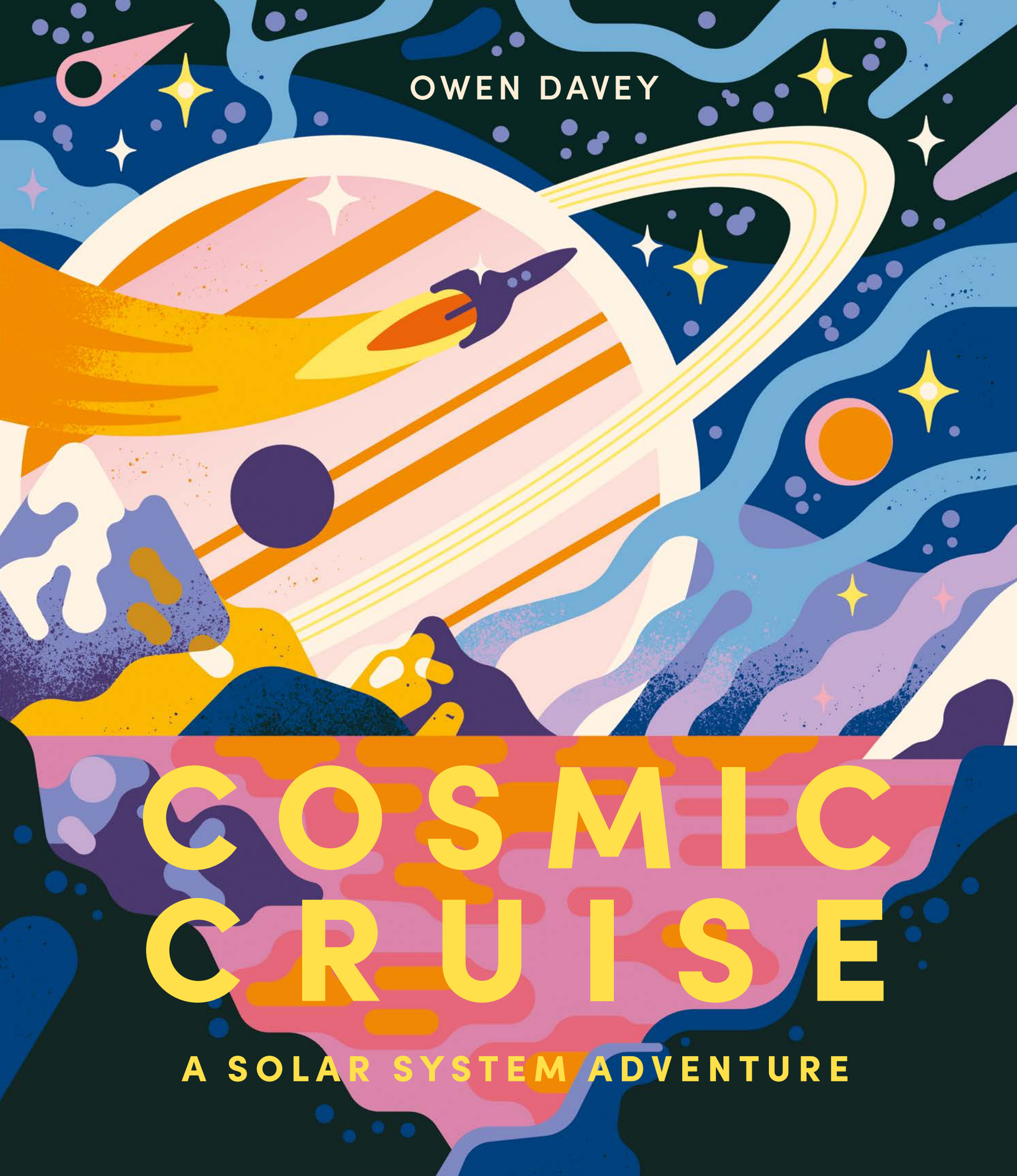

OWEN DAVEY
COSMIC CRUISE
A SOLAR SYSTEM ADVENTURE

For my adventurous children, Lyra, Emi and Robyn — O. D.

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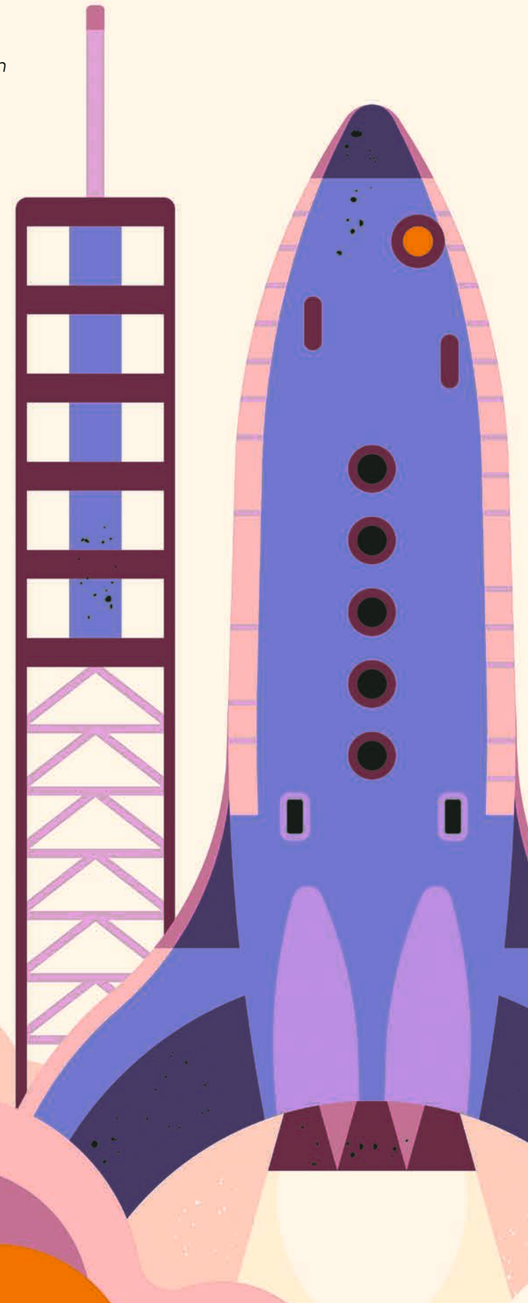
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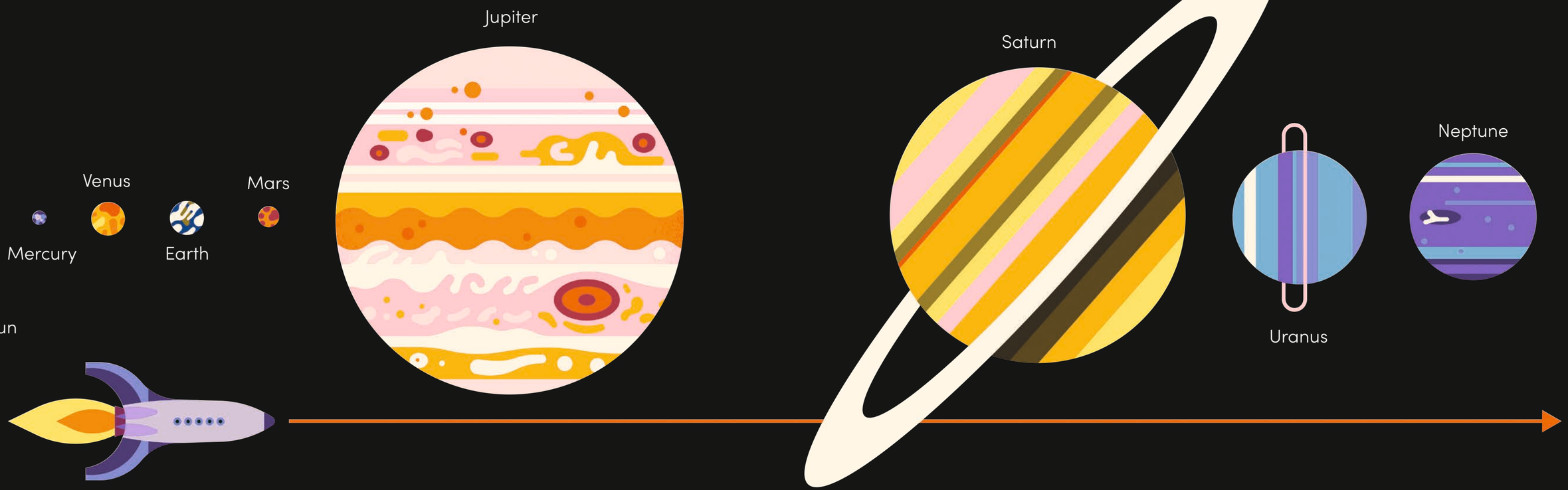
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THIS IS YOUR CAPTAIN SPEAKING . . .

Welcome aboard, brave adventurers! Thank you for choosing to fly with us today as we explore the amazing wonders of our Solar System. Our Solar System is the planets, moons, and other space objects that all travel around our star, the Sun.

Please take a look at our travel plan and all the incredible stops we'll be making.

Cosmic Caution: Stay in your seat and keep your whole body inside the spaceship. Space can be tricky! The Sun and cosmic rays are very strong, and there's no air outside. If you go out without your spacesuit, you wouldn't be able to breathe and would need to come back inside really fast. So, it's best to stay in the ship where it's nice and safe! We do hope you have a pleasant flight.



8 Life in Space
10 Super Space Suit
12 Here Comes The Sun
14 Mercury: On to Crater Things
16 Venus: A Volcano Vacation
18 Earth: The Blue Planet
20 Over the Moon
22 Mars: The Red Planet
24 Exploring Olympus Mons
26 An Asteroid Belt Adventure
28 Jupiter: The Gas Giant
30 Ganymede: A Frosty Reception
32 Saturn: Has a Ring To It
34 A Trip to Titan
36 Uranus: The Ice Giant
38 Neptune: The Furthest Planet
44 Pluto and the Kuiper Belt
42 Back to Earth
44 Index

LIFE IN SPACE

On this spacecraft, you'll live in a whole new way! In space, nothing pulls you up or down because there's no gravity. Gravity is an invisible force that makes things fall on Earth, like apples from trees, and it keeps our feet on the ground. But in space, you will float around. And if you drop something, it will just float right in front of you!

FLOATING FOOD

Without gravity, your food will move around and drinks will form blobs in mid-air.

SPACE VELCRO

It helps you keep things in place! Astronauts sometimes put Velcro on things like a chess set, so the pieces don't float away while they play in space.



It might take a few days to get used to living in space. The fluids in your body might move to your head, giving you a headache, and it can make your stomach feel funny — sick bags are available if needed.

When it's time to sleep, you'll need to strap yourself down so you don't float around and bump into things. If you need to use the toilet, you'll have to buckle yourself in. But don't worry — a special vacuum will suction everything away!

SUPER SPACE SUIT

Here is your special space suit! It is designed to keep you safe up here. It is very heavy and has many layers, so you will need help to put it on — this can take up to 30 minutes! A spacesuit isn't just clothes, but it's more like a spacecraft for one person.

Tubes are built into a layer of clothes under the suit. Water flows through the tubes to keep you cool.

Your backpack is very important. It holds oxygen so you can breathe, water to drink, a radio and even a jetpack.

A helmet protects your head.

This visor is like a pair of sunglasses and is lined with gold to protect your eyes from bright sunlight.

The upper part of your suit is like a hard shell — it is there to protect you, almost like a tortoise shell.

The lower half of the suit, helmet and gloves are all fastened to the upper part of the suit.

HERE COMES THE SUN

Diameter: 1.4 million km (109 Earths)
Surface Temperature: Approx. 5600°C

GRAB YOUR SPACE SHADES!

We start our journey near the Sun, the big star that keeps our Solar System together. The Sun is a ball made of very hot gas, called plasma, and is huge — 1.3 million times bigger than Earth! Its gravity is so strong that everything in the Solar System is being pulled towards it. All the planets orbit the Sun, moving in great circles around it. In turn, moons orbit around these planets.

RAINBOW SUN

We always think the Sun is yellow, but it's really made up of all the colours mixed together, which makes it look white. If we travel at the same speed as light from the Sun, we will be moving at 300,000 kilometres per second. It would take us about 5 and a half hours to reach Pluto.

TOO HOT TO HANDLE

We can't get too close because the Sun's outer atmosphere, called the corona, is super hot — over a million degrees! An atmosphere is the layer of gases that surrounds and protects a planet, star, or moon. Today, we're lucky to see a big burst of gas from the Sun called a 'Coronal Mass Ejection'. If it reaches Earth, it can cause problems with mobile phones and radios but it also creates something amazing in the sky called auroras — colourful lights that dance around the North and South Poles!

A YEAR IN SPACE

A year is how long it takes for a planet to go around the Sun. For Earth, this is 365 and a quarter days! A 'solar day' is how long it takes for a planet to rotate until the Sun appears in the same position in the sky as the previous day. A solar day on Earth is 24 hours, but this is not true for all planets. Let's find out more as we move on to the first planet on our tour . . .

MERCURY

On to Crater Things

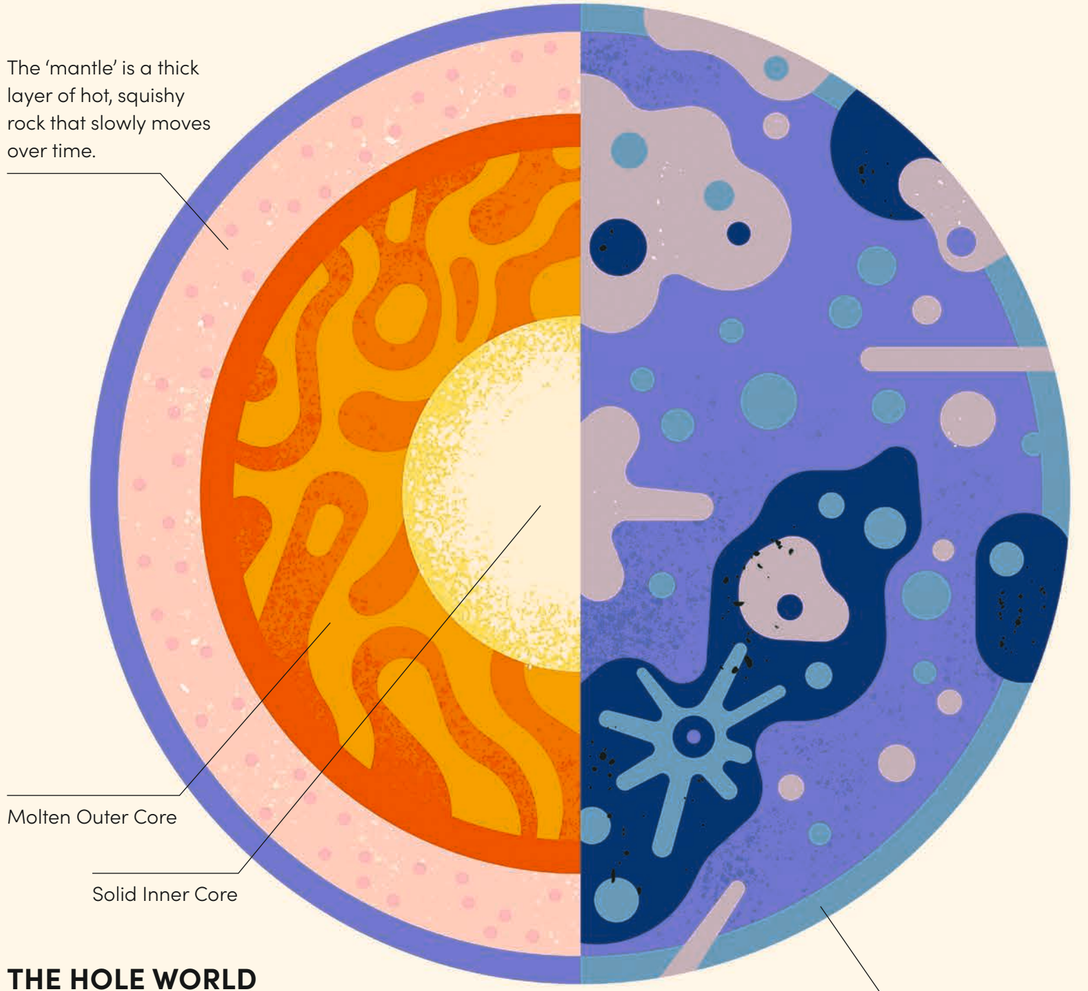
Diameter: 4,879km (about 1/3 the size of Earth)
Surface Temperature: -180°C to 430°C
One Year: 88 Earth Days
One Solar Day: 176 Earth Days
Number of Moons: 0

HOT AND COLD

As we land on Mercury, you can feel the intense heat! It's so hot that some metals would melt, like ice cream on a sunny day. Mercury's thin air lets all that heat float away at night, and it gets really cold — colder than your freezer!

LONG DAYS, QUICK YEARS

It spins very slowly. A single day here lasts 176 Earth days! But it zips around the Sun so fast, a year is 88 Earth days long. That means you'd be more than four times your Earth age if you lived here. How old would you be?



THE HOLE WORLD

Since Mercury doesn't have much air to protect it, space rocks crash into it a lot. These make holes called craters. Some are tiny, but the biggest one is called the Caloris Basin, which is 1,550 kilometres wide!

BLAST OFF INTO THE ULTIMATE SPACE ADVENTURE!



Explore fiery planets and frozen moons, bounce across the Moon's surface, and voyage beyond Pluto into the icy edges of space. With bold artwork by Owen Davey and fascinating facts throughout, this is the perfect launchpad for curious minds ready to explore our solar system.

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