Mercury Transit Hawaiian Style ~ November 8, 2006 ~ Webcast Worksheet

**Directions:** Use the information available on the Mercury Transit Hawaiian Style Webcast, as well as other linked resources, to answer the following questions related to Mercury, the Sun, and transits. Information, images and video from the webcast will be archived after the event.

What is the difference between a transit, eclipse, and occultation?

For which planets can we observe the transits?

On average, there are only ________ transits of Mercury each century.

The last Mercury transit was in the year _______. The next Mercury transit will be in _______.

How long will it take Mercury to cross the sun from our view on Earth?

What scientific data can be obtained by studying transits, eclipses, and occultations? [Hint: Dr. Bobby Bus Interview]

Mercury was visited by the __________________ spacecraft in 1973 and 1974.

For every _________ orbit(s) around the Sun, Mercury rotates ________ times.

Does Mercury have polar ice caps? If so, what keeps them from melting?

The __________________ spacecraft launched in _____ will begin to orbit Mercury in the year ______.
What does the name Mercury mean?

What range of temperatures does the planet of Mercury experience?

Our Sun fuses _________ into _________ releasing a huge amount of energy!

On average, there are only _________ transits of Venus each century.