

# Transit of Mercury

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle the correct words in the passage.

A Transit of Mercury occurs when the planet ( Earth / Venus / Mercury ) travels between the ( Sun / Earth / Venus ) and the ( Moon / Sun / Earth ) and the three celestial bodies become aligned. It is a ( rare / common / frequent ) event that only happens about thirteen or fourteen times every ( decade / century / millennium. )

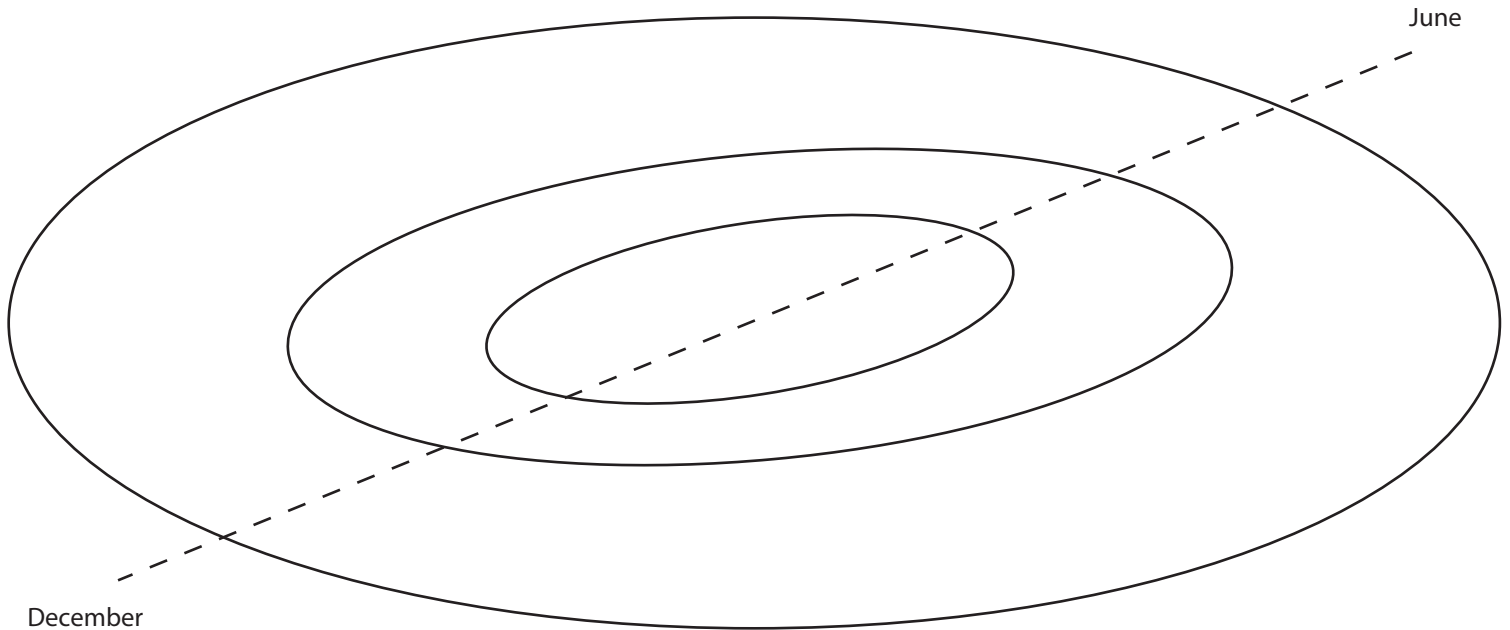
A Transit of Mercury can only happen in ( May / June / July ) or in ( September / November / December. ) This is when Mercury crosses into the ecliptical plane of the Earth. At other times Mercury will travel above or below the Earth's line of sight of the Sun because Mercury's orbit is ( curved / straight / tilted. )

Mercury looks like a tiny dot that moves across the face of the ( Sun / Moon / Earth. ) It can only be seen from places on the Earth that are facing the Sun. The other side of the sun is experiencing ( daytime / night time ) and will not see the transit at all.

Answer these questions.

- 1) Name one other reason why parts of the world may not see the Transit of Mercury.
- 2) Can the Transit of Mercury be seen without a telescope? Why?
- 3) Is it safe to look through a telescope at the sun? Why?

Place pictures on the diagram to show your understanding of how a Transit of Mercury occurs.



Cut out the appropriate pictures and paste into the correct places on the diagram.

