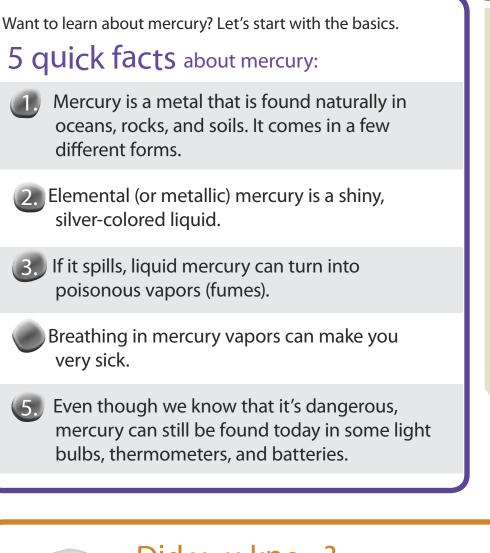
Mercury Facts for Students





Sometimes people call mercury "quicksilver" because it looks so much like liquid silver.

Did you know?

- Mercury is the only metal on earth that is **liquid at room temperature**.
- Liquid mercury is so slippery that it will fall off your skin if you try to hold it.
- It is so heavy that 2 tablespoons of mercury weighs about one pound!

www.atsdr.cdc.gov/dontmesswithmercury

don't mess with MERC



What happens when someone gets mercury poisoning?

When a person breathes in mercury vapors, the poisons can go to the brain — which means it can be dangerous. If mercury damages your brain, it can make you:

- Feel grumpy all the time
- Feel shy or nervous
- Make you tremble (shake)
- Have trouble hearing
- Have trouble remembering things

To learn more about how mercury can harm your body, visit www.atsdr.cdc.gov/dontmesswithmercury/

Ever wonder how the Mad Hatter in Alice in Wonderland got his name?

In the 1800s, hat makers started using a form of mercury to help make the wool in hats feel softer. Since they didn't know mercury was dangerous, many hat makers were poisoned. When brain damage from mercury poisoning made them act strangely, people started using the phrase "mad as a hatter" to mean a crazy person.



Check out this timeline to learn more about how mercury has been used throughout history.

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