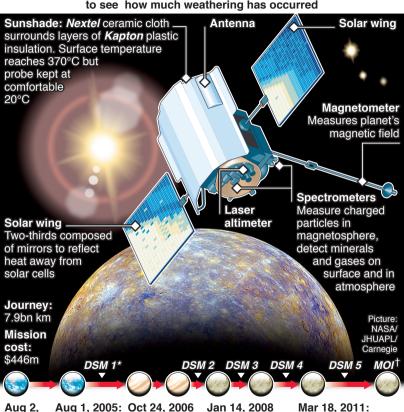
Mercury probe set for crash landing

Messenger, the NASA space probe that discovered water on Mercury and has orbited the planet for four years, will deliberately crash into the surface so that a future mission can monitor its impact crater to see how much weathering has occurred



Aug 2, 2004:

Earth for Venus flybys gravity assist

Jun 6, 2007:

Sep 30, 2009: Mercury flybys

Oct 6, 2008

Enters orbit
Mar 30: First images
sent back to Earth

peuvre †Mercury Orbit Insertion

Source: NASA *Deep Space Manoeuvre

Swings past