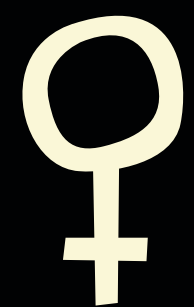


Map of VENUS

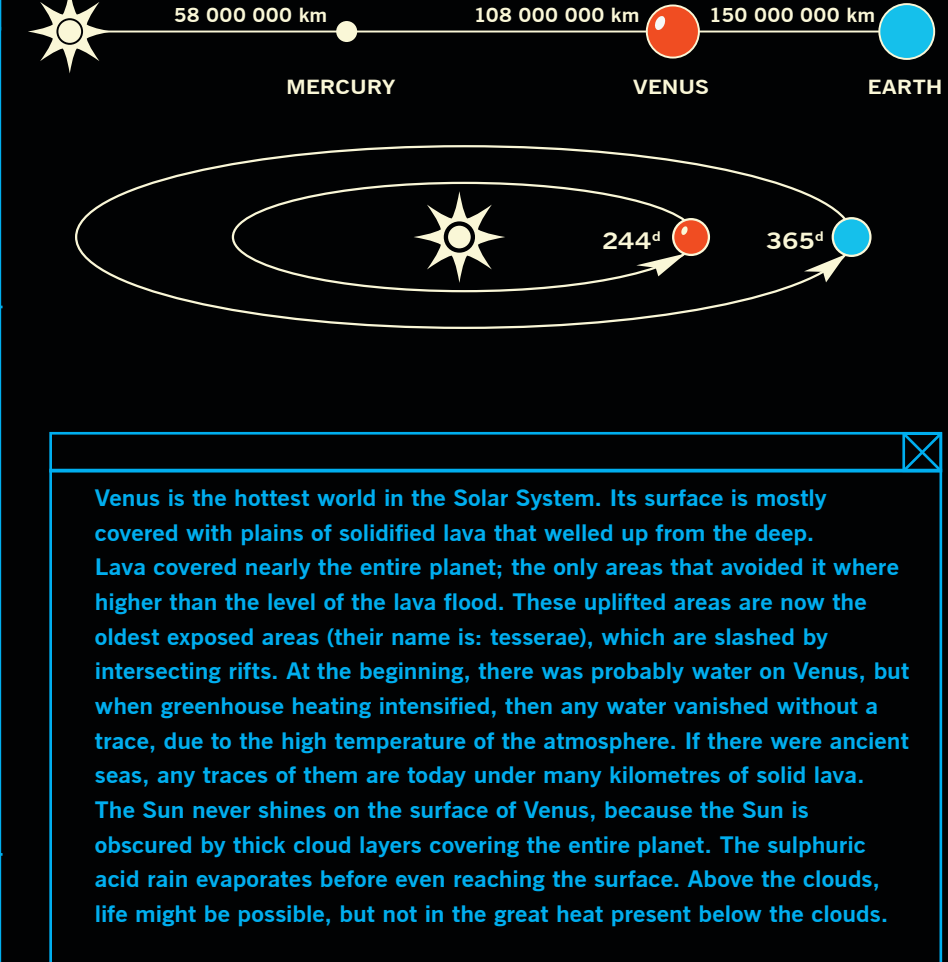
LAMBERT AZIMUTHAL EQUAL AREA PROJECTION

1 : 37 600 000 (1 cm = 376 km)

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<div><div></div><div></div></div> <div>Solar distance: 108 million km (Earth: 150 million km)</div>
<div>Satellites: -</div>
<div>Length of Equator: 38,025 km (Earth: 40,075 km)</div>
<div>Surface area: 460 million km² (Earth: 510 million km²)</div>
<div>Revolution around the Sun (one year): 224 earth days (Earth: 365 days)</div>
<div>Rotation (one stellar day): 243 earth days in retrograde direction (opposite to that of the earth's motion) (Earth: 23° 56')</div>
<div>Solar day: 117 earth days (Earth: 24 h)</div>
<div>Density: 5.24 g/cm³ (Earth: 5.515 g/cm³)</div>



Venus is the hottest world in the Solar System. Its surface is mostly covered with plains of solidified lava that welled up from the deep. Lava covered nearly the entire planet; the only areas that avoided it where higher than the level of the lava flood. These uplifted areas are now the oldest exposed areas (their name is: tesserae), which are slashed by intersecting rifts. At the beginning, there was probably water on Venus; but when greenhouse heating intensified, then any water vanished without a trace, due to the high temperature of the atmosphere. If there were ancient seas, any traces of them are today under many kilometres of solid lava. The Sun never shines on the surface of Venus, because the Sun is obscured by thick cloud layers covering the entire planet. The sulphuric acid rain evaporates before even reaching the surface. Above the clouds, life might be possible, but not in the great heat present below the clouds.

