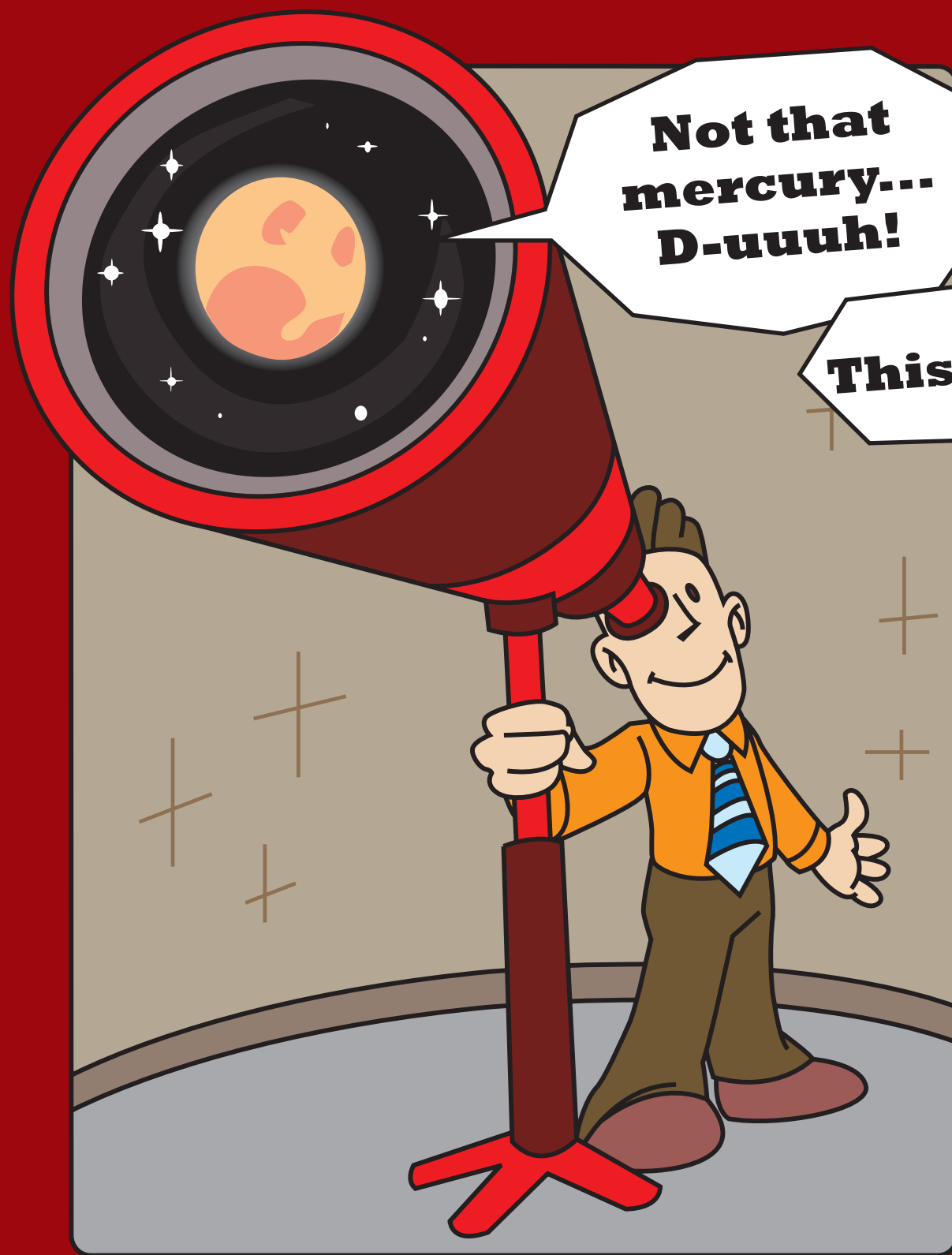


Mercury maims



Playing with mercury just isn't cool!

Mercury is a very dangerous chemical, and affects the brain and nervous system in many ways.



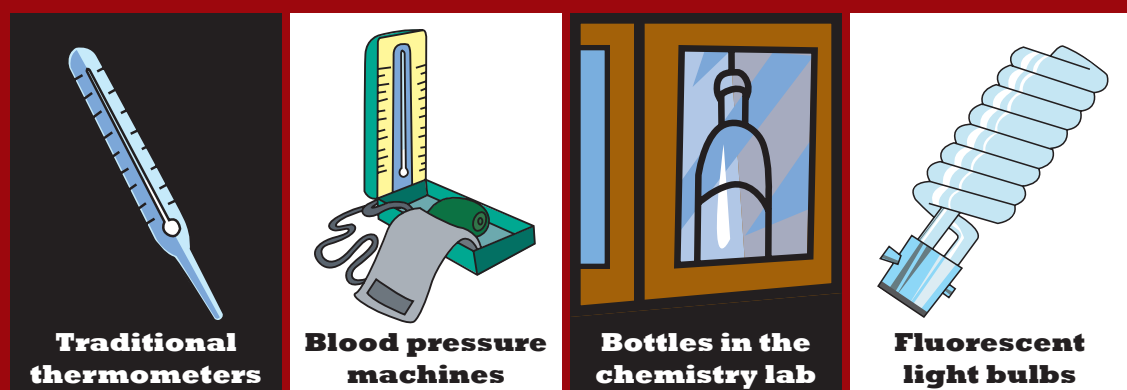
We call someone 'mad as a hatter' because people who made hats in Victorian England often developed nervous disorders as a result of exposure to mercury, which they used to soften felt for hat linings.

1 gm of mercury (a thermometer contains 0.6 gm) can pollute a 20-acre lake so that the fish is unfit for eating. In this picture, a mother in Minamata, Japan, bathes her son, who is severely mentally challenged as a result of mercury poisoning.



You just need to put a touch of mercury on your palm, and it can cross the skin barrier and enter the blood, and through the blood affect the brain.

Common objects containing mercury



All of these (except for fluorescent light bulbs, which need to be properly recycled) have cost-effective alternatives.

Here's what you can do:

- ▲ Replace mercury-containing products with safer, non-mercury alternatives.
- ▲ Don't throw fluorescent bulbs and old electronic switches in household trash.
- ▲ Petition to start recycling these objects.

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