

What are Comets?

Student Worksheet

Read the following

Follow the following procedures.

Procedures

1. Go to www.kids.infoplease.lycos.com.science/html.
2. Scroll down to **Stars and Planets** and click.
3. Scroll down to **Comets** and click.
4. Answer the questions, or fill in the blanks below.

Section 1

1. Comets are enormous " _____ " of frozen gases (_____
_____) and contain very little _____
_____.
2. What did people in the Middle Ages think about comets?
3. What did people in Roman times call a comet?
4. Tycho Brahe (1546-1601) was an astronomer who measured the motion of the comet of 1577. He showed that the comet had been... _____
_____.
5. This proved that comets were _____ and not meteorological phenomena.
6. Dr. Edmund Halley (1656-1742) concluded that a comet could move around the sun in a closed orbit like the planets. What did people call the comet that appeared 16 years after Dr. Halley's death and again in 1986?
7. Why did several spacecraft go into space in 1986?