

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Comets

Learn facts about comets.

Read the passage and answer the questions.

Plonetsimal is another word for the small world we usually call a comet. Comets are made of dust and ice, kind of like a dirty snowball. Comets come from the far edges of the solar system, either from the Oort Cloud or the Kuiper Belt. A comet spends millions of years in the Oort Cloud or Kuiper Belt; sometimes two comets will even run into each other. This is when a comet's path changes and it might move its orbit to the inner solar system, and will begin to melt and shine. As comets melt, a beautiful-looking tail follows them. Comets from the Kuiper Belt are short-term comets, and take fewer than 200 years to orbit the sun. Comets from the Oort Cloud are less predictable and can take as long as 30 million years to orbit the sun.



1. What is another name for a comet? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What are comets made of? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Where do comets come from? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How do comets end up in the inner solar system? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Why do we see a shining tail as a comet goes across the sky? \_\_\_\_\_  
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