

Comet Investigation



Teacher Information:

Launch your students on a mission of discovery as they learn important comet terminology and then research a particular comet!

- Form student groups of 3- 4 students.
- Guide the student groups in picking out a comet that interests them.
- Supply each student in the group with a Student Data Log. This data log begins with the students having to define important comet terms. The rest of the data log should guide the research on their comet, but it does not have to limit their research! Consider providing a few websites to get the groups started.
- After they have completed the Student Data Log, the students should work together to draw and create an illustration of their comet.
- Discuss creative ways to present the information they find: a group presentation, an information board, a power point presentation, a comet scrapbook, a song... the possibilities are endless!

Comets: (just a few to get you started)

- Comet Halley
- Comet Hale-Bopp
- Comet Tempel-Tuttle
- Comet West
- Comet Wild 2
- Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9
- Comet Hyakutake
- Comet Linear
- Comet Churyumov-Gerasimenko
- Comet SOHO



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Student Data Log p.1

Comet Terminology:

Define each term before researching your Comet

Comet nucleus: _____

Comet coma: _____

Comet tail: _____

Orbital Period: _____

Short Period Comet: _____

Long Period Comet: _____

Density: _____

Orbital Eccentricity: _____

Comet Magnitude: _____

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Student Data Log p.2

Name of Comet: _____

Date Discovered	
Discoverer	
Size	
Density	
Orbital Period	
Short or Long Period	
Orbital Eccentricity	
Magnitude	
Point of Origin	
Spacecraft Encounters	
Other Interesting Facts	

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Comet Illustration:

