

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Comets and Asteroids



Comets are giant ice boulders traveling through space. Similar to the planets, they orbit around stars like the sun. Comets often will melt as they pass near the sun and may even disappear. Comets generally have two tails that can be seen from Earth, one made of dust particles and the other from gases.

An asteroid is a large rock that travels through space. Generally, asteroids orbit the sun and have no tail. Asteroids are sometimes called minor planets. Viewed from Earth, asteroids often appear as stars.



A telescope is usually needed to see comets and asteroids. There are comets that can be seen with the naked eye, such as Halley. Most comets or asteroids are not dangerous. Earth is hit by a large comet or asteroid only once over hundreds of thousands of years.



## Answer the Questions

1. What are comets?

- a. big rocks of fire
- b. small ice boulders
- c. small firey boulders
- d. large ice boulders

3. What is Halley?

- a. a comet
- b. a star
- c. a moon
- d. an asteroid



2. How do comets appear when viewed from Earth?

- a. as stars
- b. as planets
- c. trees
- d. clouds

4. Comets and asteroids \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. always orbit the earth
- b. often clash with the earth
- c. travel around the earth
- d. none of the above