

The Solar System ▪ *Guided Reading and Study*

Comets, Asteroids, and Meteors

This section describes the other objects in the solar system, including comets, asteroids, and meteors.

Use Target Reading Skills

As you read about comets, asteroids, and meteoroids, fill in the graphic organizer below to compare and contrast their origin, size, and composition.

Feature	Comets	Asteroids	Meteoroids
Origin	Kuiper belt and Oort cloud	a.	b.
Size	c.	d.	Smaller than comets or asteroids
Composition	e.	Rock	f.

Comets

1. What are comets?

2. What are the three main parts of a comet?

a. _____ b. _____

c. _____

3. What forms a comet's tail?

4. Is the following sentence true or false? A comet's tail can be more than 100 million kilometers long. _____

Name _____ Date _____ Class _____

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Comets, Asteroids, and Meteors *(continued)*

5. If the orbit of a comet is 500 times the distance between Pluto and the sun, which region is it in? Explain how you know.

Asteroids

6. Rocky objects revolving around the sun that are too small and too numerous to be called planets are called _____.
7. Where is the asteroid belt?

8. What happened when an asteroid collided with Earth 65 million years ago?

Meteors

Match the term with its definition.

Term	Definition
____ 9. meteoroid	a. A meteoroid that has passed through the atmosphere and hit Earth's surface
____ 10. meteor	b. A chunk of rock or dust in space
____ 11. meteorite	c. A streak of light caused by the burning up of a meteoroid in the atmosphere

12. Where do meteoroids come from?

13. The craters on the moon were caused by the impact of _____.
