


Student Link

Lesson Activity for Grade 6 (*Science*: Windows to the Universe: Comets)

Student Name: _____

INSTRUCTIONS

Sometimes we see them streak across the sky in a brilliant display of light effects. We also see them depicted in movies all the time. But what do you know about **comets**? This lesson will take a closer look at our what they are and how they are formed.

1. Starting from the Grade 6 StudentLink menu, click on **“Science”**.
 2. Next, click on **“Windows: Universe”** under the “Sky and Space” column.
- Then click on  and then **“Comets”**.



What did people used to think comets were a sign of?

Why do you think they would have thought this way about comets?

What changed people’s minds about comets?

What are comets made of and where do they come from?

How do humans get most of there images of comets?



2. Check out the link to “Comet Images” below to see some really neat pictures of comets. When you’re done, click back to the main comets page and then click on [lumps](#) to learn more about the make-up of comets.



What is the primary “ingredient” in a comet?

Why is the solid part of a Comet referred to as a sponge?

The tail that you see when a comet approaches a heat source, like the sun, is called the _____.

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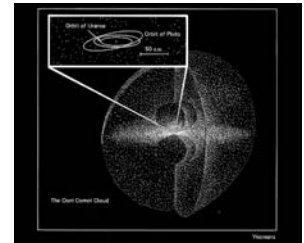
3. Click the back button and then click on [Outer Reaches](#).

How many AU do scientists think comets come from?

Describe what an AU is. Why do you think scientists created this unit of measurement?

What is the Oort Cloud?

Scientists do not yet know how comets got so far away. What are some reasons you think comets got so far away?



4. So what happens after a comet gets kicked out of the Oort Cloud? Click back and then click on [Repeated Trips](#) to find out.

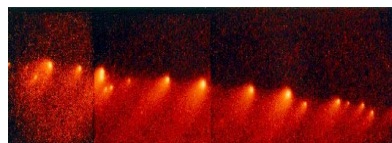
What kind of trajectory does a comet take around the sun?

Using the picture below, draw and label each different trajectory (if you need help drawing the trajectories, click on the link in the description to see a picture of each).



5. Finally, click on the back button and try out the links to the all of the famous comets underlined in the description:

- [Shoemaker-Levy](#)
- [Hyakutake](#)
- [Hale-Bopp](#)



When you're done, on the bottom of the "Comets" page is a link to the interactive comet animation page. Try out the animation and see how you make out...

