Name: _____ Date: _____

A Comet Tail Points Away From the Sun

Circle group

A comet is a ball of ice and dust. It floats far out in space. It is dark and cold there.

Some comets go near the sun. The sun warms the ice. The ice turns to gas and dust, and a glowing tail grows.

The tail points away from the sun. We can see a comet on a dark night. It looks like a fuzzy star with a long tail.

Questions

1. What is a comet?

_____

_____

2. What does the sun do to the ice?

_____

_____

3. Which way does the tail point?

_____

_____

4. What does a comet look like from Earth?

_____

_____

5. Why does a comet far from the sun have no tail?

_____

_____

Words to know

comet: a ball of ice and dust that travels in space
tail: the long part at the back of a thing
dust: tiny bits of dry dirt
fuzzy: not clear, like soft fur

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

A Comet Tail Points Away From the Sun

Triangle group

A comet is a ball of ice and dust. It floats far out in space. It is dark and cold there.

Some comets travel near the sun. The sun warms the ice. The ice turns to gas and dust, and a glowing tail grows.

The tail always points away from the sun. A comet that is moving toward the sun has its tail behind it. A comet that is moving away has its tail out in front!

People can see a comet from Earth on a dark night. It looks like a fuzzy star with a long, pale tail.

Questions

1. What is a comet?

_____

_____

2. What does the sun do to the ice?

_____

_____

3. Which way does the tail always point?

_____

_____

4. What does a comet look like from Earth?

_____

_____

5. Why does a comet far from the sun have no tail?

_____

_____

Words to know

comet: a ball of ice and dust that travels in space
tail: the long part at the back of a thing
dust: tiny bits of dry dirt

fuzzy: not clear, like soft fur

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

A Comet Tail Points Away From the Sun

Square group

A comet is a ball of ice and dust that drifts far out in space, where it is dark and bitterly cold.

Some comets travel close to the sun. The sun's heat warms the ice, and the ice turns into gas and dust, which forms a glowing tail.

The tail always points away from the sun. A comet that is moving toward the sun has its tail trailing behind it, but a comet that is moving away has its tail stretched out in front!

On a dark night, people on Earth can see a comet. It looks like a fuzzy star with a long, pale tail.

Questions

1. What is a comet?

_____

_____

2. What does the sun's heat do to the ice?

_____

_____

3. Which way does the tail always point?

_____

_____

4. What does a comet look like from Earth?

_____

_____

5. Why does a comet far from the sun have no tail?

_____

_____

Words to know

comet: a ball of ice and dust that travels in space
tail: the long part at the back of a thing
dust: tiny bits of dry dirt

fuzzy: not clear, like soft fur

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: A Comet Tail Points Away From the Sun

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: A Comet Tail Points Away From the Sun

Easier · 70 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.3

1. A ball of ice and dust.
2. It warms the ice.
3. Away from the sun.
4. A fuzzy star with a long tail.
5. It is too cold, so the ice stays ice.

Triangle: A Comet Tail Points Away From the Sun

This passage · 99 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.9

1. A ball of ice and dust.
2. It warms the ice.
3. Away from the sun.
4. A fuzzy star with a long, pale tail.
5. It is too cold there, so the ice does not turn to gas.

Square: A Comet Tail Points Away From the Sun

Harder · 106 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.6

1. A ball of ice and dust.
2. It warms the ice and turns it into gas and dust.
3. Away from the sun.
4. A fuzzy star with a long, pale tail.
5. It is too cold there for the ice to turn into gas.