

The Solar System ▪ *Review and Reinforce*

Comets, Asteroids, and Meteors

Understanding Main Ideas

Complete the following table.

Object	Description	Location/Movement
Asteroid		
Comet		
Meteoroid		

Answer questions 1 through 3 on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Explain what causes a meteoroid to become a meteorite.
2. Describe these parts of a comet: head, nucleus, coma, tail.
3. How can you tell a meteor from a comet?

Building Vocabulary

From the list below, choose the term that best completes each sentence.

- | | | |
|---------------|-------------|------------|
| asteroid | comet | meteoroid |
| asteroid belt | Kuiper belt | meteorite |
| coma | meteor | Oort cloud |

4. When a meteoroid enters Earth's atmosphere, friction causes it to burn up and produce a streak of light called a(n) _____.
5. A chunk of ice and dust whose orbit is usually a long, narrow ellipse is a(n) _____.
6. If a meteoroid hits Earth's surface, it is called a(n) _____.
7. A rocky object that revolves around the sun, but is too small to be considered a planet, is a(n) _____.
8. A chunk of rock or dust in space that usually comes from a comet or an asteroid is called a(n) _____.
9. The region of the solar system between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter is known as the _____.
10. Clouds of gas and dust on a comet form a fuzzy outer layer called a _____.
11. A spherical region of comets is the _____.
12. A doughnut-shaped region of comets that begins near Neptune's orbit is the _____.