

Name _____

Birth of Cosmic Snowballs: How Comets Are Formed

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Where are comets primarily formed within our solar system?
 - A) In the asteroid belt
 - B) In the Oort Cloud and Kuiper Belt
 - C) In the inner planets
 - D) In the Sun's core

2. What are the main components of a comet?
 - A) Rocks and metals
 - B) Ices, dust, and rocky materials
 - C) Hydrogen and helium
 - D) Gas and plasma

3. What can disturb the stable orbits of icy bodies in the Oort Cloud and Kuiper Belt?
 - A) Earth's gravitational pull
 - B) Solar flares
 - C) Gravitational pull of nearby stars and cosmic events
 - D) Radioactive decay

4. What happens to comets as they approach the inner solar system?
 - A) They shrink in size
 - B) They gain more ice
 - C) Their ices vaporize, creating a coma and tails
 - D) They stop moving

5. What causes comets to put on spectacular displays as they approach the Sun?
 - A) The gravitational pull of Earth
 - B) The solar wind and radiation
 - C) Their high-speed rotations
 - D) The presence of aliens

