

Name _____

Birth of Cosmic Snowballs: How Comets Are Formed

Short Answer

1. Explain where comets are primarily formed within our solar system and what materials they consist of.
2. Describe the process that disturbs the stable orbits of icy bodies in the Oort Cloud and Kuiper Belt, setting them on a path to becoming comets.
3. How does the increasing warmth as comets approach the inner solar system contribute to the formation of their characteristic coma and tails?
4. Discuss the significance of the gas and dust tails that comets develop as they pass by the Sun. What causes these tails to form?
5. Imagine you are a comet scientist. Explain why the study of comets' formation is essential for understanding the history and evolution of our solar system.

