

Name _____

Naming the Cosmic Wanderers: How Comets Get Their Names

Multiple Choice Questions

1. How were comets traditionally named in the past?
 - a) After the planets in the solar system
 - b) After famous astronomers
 - c) After their chemical composition
 - d) After their size and brightness

2. What organization tracks celestial objects like comets and asteroids?
 - a) The International Space Station (ISS)
 - b) The International Astronomical Union (IAU)
 - c) NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration)
 - d) The European Space Agency (ESA)

3. What is the initial designation given to a comet after its discovery?
 - a) A formal name chosen by the discoverer
 - b) A technical designation including the year of discovery and a combination of letters and numbers
 - c) The discoverer's initials
 - d) The discoverer's favorite constellation

4. Why are names for comets limited to 16 characters and preferably one word?
 - a) To make them easier to remember
 - b) To save space in astronomical databases
 - c) To ensure they fit on a telescope's lens
 - d) To maintain mystery and intrigue

5. What is the final step in naming a comet?
 - a) Naming it after the discoverer
 - b) Submitting a proposal to the IAU
 - c) Announcing the discovery to the public
 - d) Naming it after a famous comet from history

