

Name _____

Celestial Wanderers: How Often Do Comets Grace Our Skies?

Short Answer

1. Describe the difference between short-period and long-period comets in terms of their orbits and frequency of appearances near Earth.
2. Explain how the gravitational pull of massive planets like Jupiter can affect a comet's orbit and influence its visits to the inner solar system.
3. What is the Oort Cloud, and why do comets originating from this region have long and erratic orbits?
4. How has modern technology and astronomical observations improved our ability to track and predict the movements of comets?
5. What are some of the factors that contribute to the sense of anticipation and awe associated with comet appearances?

