

Name _____

Celestial Wanderers: How Often Do Comets Grace Our Skies?

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Answers will vary but may include using telescopes to observe the comet's position and trajectory, calculating its orbit parameters, and using computer simulations to predict its future path.
2. Comets have historically been associated with omens and supernatural events in various cultures. They have inspired art, literature, and scientific inquiry throughout history.
3. Space agencies and observatories contribute to comet studies by monitoring comets, sharing data, and conducting research. Their efforts help enhance our understanding of these celestial objects and their potential impact on Earth.
4. Comets can provide information about the composition of the early solar system and the conditions that prevailed during its formation. Studying comets helps scientists learn about the building blocks of our solar system and its evolution over billions of years.

