

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Comets and Asteroids: Cosmic Wanderers of the Night Sky

### Short Answer Key

1. A comet appears with a bright, glowing coma and a tail when it approaches the Sun.
2. Most asteroids in our solar system reside in the asteroid belt, located between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter.
3. The tail of a comet forms as the solar wind and radiation from the Sun push the coma's particles away.
4. The primary composition of comets includes dust, rock, and ices such as water, methane, and ammonia.
5. Comets often have highly elliptical orbits that take them far from the Sun and then close to it, while asteroids have more regular orbits within the solar system.

