

Chapter 23 Touring Our Solar System

## Section 23.4 Minor Members of the Solar System

*This section describes the characteristics of asteroids, comets, and meteoroids.*

### Reading Strategy

As you read this section, write a definition for each vocabulary term in your own words and enter it in the table. For more information on this Reading Strategy, see the **Reading and Study Skills** in the **Skills and Reference Handbook** at the end of your textbook.

Vocabulary	Definition
asteroid	

### Asteroids: Microplanets

- Is the following sentence true or false? Asteroids are small, rocky bodies in space. \_\_\_\_\_
- 👉 Where are most asteroids found? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Asteroids cannot be the remains of a broken planet because they do not have enough total \_\_\_\_\_.

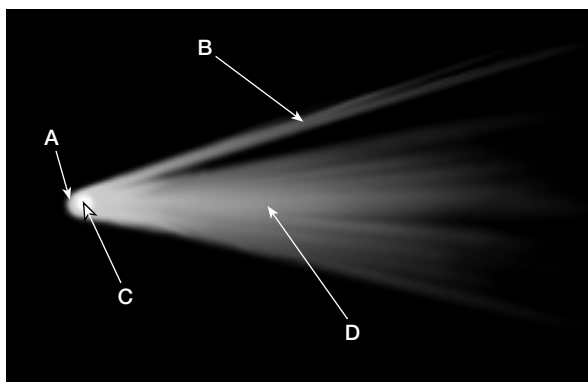
### Comets

- \_\_\_\_\_ are pieces of rocky and metallic materials held together by frozen gases.
- Circle the letter of the term for the glowing head of a comet formed when frozen gases vaporize.
  - nucleus
  - coma
  - gas tail
  - dust tail

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6. Select the appropriate letter in the figure that identifies each of the following parts of a comet.

- \_\_\_\_\_ nucleus
- \_\_\_\_\_ tail of ionized gases
- \_\_\_\_\_ coma
- \_\_\_\_\_ tail of dust



7. 🗑️ When do comets develop tails? \_\_\_\_\_
8. List the two regions from which comets originate. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Is the following sentence true or false? The nucleus of Halley’s comet is spherical. \_\_\_\_\_

### Meteoroids

Match each description with its object.

Description	Object
_____ 10. small, solid particle from space that reaches Earth’s surface	a. meteor
_____ 11. small, solid particle from space that burns up in Earth’s atmosphere	b. meteoroid
_____ 12. small, solid particle that travels through space	c. meteorite

13. 🗑️ List the three sources of most meteoroids. \_\_\_\_\_
14. A(n) \_\_\_\_\_, or display of frequent meteor sightings, can result when Earth encounters a swarm of meteoroids.
15. What is the origin of large craters on Earth such as Meteor Crater in Arizona? \_\_\_\_\_
16. Is the following sentence true or false? Meteorites are now the only extraterrestrial materials scientists have to examine directly. \_\_\_\_\_