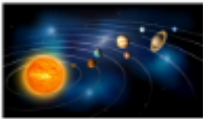


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Crash Course Astronomy #22: The Oort Cloud

Name: _____ Date: _____

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1. Comets with orbital periods of less than 200 years tend to orbit the Sun in the same plane as the _____.
2. The Nice model proposes that gravitational interactions caused Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune to migrate _____ from the Sun.
3. The Kuiper Belt is a doughnut-shaped region of icy bodies aligned with the plane of the _____.
4. The scattered disk contains objects with highly _____ orbits, influenced by Neptune's gravity.
5. The spherical shell of icy objects that may extend as far as a light year from the Sun is known as the _____.
6. Long-period comets originate from the _____ Cloud and approach the inner solar system from random directions.
7. Short-period comets come from the _____ disk and can be altered by Neptune into new orbits.
8. Pluto orbits the Sun in a 3:2 _____ with Neptune, preventing the two from ever colliding.
9. Objects with a 3:2 orbital resonance with Neptune, like Pluto, are called _____.
10. The discovery of Pluto in 1930 was followed by the discovery of another Kuiper Belt Object in 1992 called _____.
11. Pluto's moon _____ is massive enough that Pluto noticeably orbits their mutual center of mass.
12. The Kuiper Belt may contain up to _____ objects larger than 100 kilometers wide.
13. The Oort Cloud may contain _____ of icy bodies left over from the formation of the solar system.
14. The orbit of Sedna does not approach Neptune, suggesting it may have been affected by _____ stars.
15. Some astronomers speculate that a distant, undiscovered _____ beyond Neptune may explain unusual orbital alignments.

Crash Course Astronomy #22: The Oort Cloud KEY

1. Comets with orbital periods of less than 200 years tend to orbit the Sun in the same plane as the **planets**.
2. The Nice model proposes that gravitational interactions caused Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune to migrate **outward** from the Sun.
3. The Kuiper Belt is a doughnut-shaped region of icy bodies aligned with the plane of the **solar system**.
4. The scattered disk contains objects with highly **tilted** orbits, influenced by Neptune's gravity.
5. The spherical shell of icy objects that may extend as far as a light year from the Sun is known as the **Oort Cloud**.
6. Long-period comets originate from the **Oort Cloud** and approach the inner solar system from random directions.
7. Short-period comets come from the **scattered disk** and can be altered by Neptune into new orbits.
8. Pluto orbits the Sun in a 3:2 **resonance** with Neptune, preventing the two from ever colliding.
9. Objects with a 3:2 orbital resonance with Neptune, like Pluto, are called **plutinos**.
10. The discovery of Pluto in 1930 was followed by the discovery of another Kuiper Belt Object in 1992 called **1992 QB1**.
11. Pluto's moon **Charon** is massive enough that Pluto noticeably orbits their mutual center of mass.
12. The Kuiper Belt may contain up to **100,000** objects larger than 100 kilometers wide.
13. The Oort Cloud may contain **trillions** of icy bodies left over from the formation of the solar system.
14. The orbit of Sedna does not approach Neptune, suggesting it may have been affected by **passing stars**.
15. Some astronomers speculate that a distant, undiscovered **planet** beyond Neptune may explain unusual orbital alignments.

15 Questions

Answer Key Included

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