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Crash Course - ASTRONOMY 47 Episode Series Bundle

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Crash Course Astronomy #21: Comets

Name: _____ Date: _____

You can access the video here → <https://youtu.be/yB918lyPyK4?si=xT1QZ2JgmFVx11>

1. Unlike asteroids, which are mostly rock, comets are a more balanced mixture of _____ and rock.
2. The process by which ice turns directly into gas is called _____.
3. The solid part of a comet is known as the _____.
4. The gaseous cloud surrounding a comet's nucleus is called the _____.
5. The tail made from ionized gas particles that always points away from the Sun is called the _____.
6. The comet's dust tail is pushed by _____, which exerts a small pressure on dust particles.
7. A comet's ion tail typically appears _____ or green depending on the gases it contains.
8. Comets are broadly classified based on their _____.
9. Comets that orbit the Sun in under 200 years are known as _____ comets.
10. Comets that dive into the Sun and may disintegrate in the process are known as _____.
11. The idea that comets come from distant cold reservoirs beyond Neptune led to the discovery of two such regions, one of which is still to be discussed in a later _____.
12. The nucleus of Comet Halley reflects only about 4% of incoming light, making it as black as _____.
13. The European mission that orbited comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko was called _____.
14. The probe that physically collected material from Comet Wild 2 and returned it to Earth was named _____.
15. Organic molecules discovered in comet samples included _____, the building blocks of proteins and life.

Crash Course Astronomy #21: Comets KEY

1. Unlike asteroids, which are mostly rock, comets are a more balanced mixture of **ice** and rock.
2. The process by which ice turns directly into gas is called **sublimation**.
3. The solid part of a comet is known as the **nucleus**.
4. The gaseous cloud surrounding a comet's nucleus is called the **coma**.
5. The tail made from ionized gas particles that always points away from the Sun is called the **ion tail**.
6. The comet's dust tail is pushed by **sunlight**, which exerts a small pressure on dust particles.
7. A comet's ion tail typically appears **blue** or green depending on the gases it contains.
8. Comets are broadly classified based on their **orbits**.
9. Comets that orbit the Sun in under 200 years are known as **short-period** comets.
10. Comets that dive into the Sun and may disintegrate in the process are known as **Sundivers**.
11. The idea that comets come from distant cold reservoirs beyond Neptune led to the discovery of two such regions, one of which is still to be discussed in a later **episode**.
12. The nucleus of Comet Halley reflects only about 4% of incoming light, making it as black as **asphalt**.
13. The European mission that orbited comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko was called **Rosetta**.
14. The probe that physically collected material from Comet Wild 2 and returned it to Earth was named **Stardust**.
15. Organic molecules discovered in comet samples included **amino acids**, the building blocks of proteins and life.

15 Questions

Answer Key Included

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