

COMETS & METEORS QUIZ

1. Comets have two tails. One is a dust tail comprising of particles from its surface. What is the other tail called..?

- a) Ion
- b) Stream
- c) Double tail

2. Which of these is NOT usually characteristic of a comet's orbit?

- a) Retrograde orbit
- b) Eccentric to ecliptic
- c) Circular orbit

3. The asteroid belt is between..?

- a) Mercury and Venus
- b) Mars and Jupiter
- c) Hoth and Besbin

4. The area that meteor showers originate from in the sky is called the..?

- a) Ecliptic
- b) Zenith
- c) Radiant

5. Meteor showers occur because..?

- a) An object hits the atmosphere
- b) Fireballs hit Earth
- c) The Earth moves into a point on its orbit where debris has been left

6. How do spacecraft travel safely through the asteroid belt?

- a) All asteroid orbits are carefully plotted
- b) The belt is not densely packed with asteroids
- c) They have shields on them like the Millennium Falcon in the Empire Strikes back

7. What is the object that falls into Earth's atmosphere leaving a lit trail behind it?

- a) Meteor
- b) Meteoroid
- c) Meteorite

8. Long term comets are thought to originate in what area of the Solar System?

- a) Asteroid Belt
- b) Kuiper Belt
- c) Oort Cloud

9. Short term comets are thought to originate in what area of the Solar System?

- a) Asteroid Belt
- b) Kuiper Belt
- c) Oort Cloud

10. The nucleus of a comet is surrounded by..?

- a) A Tail
- b) A Coma
- c) A Full Stop

11. Meteorites are made of..?

- a) Rock or Iron
- b) Ice or Rock
- c) Cheese or Onion

12. True or False? Earth and other planets and moons in the Solar System have been (and are still) hit by objects like meteors, comets and asteroids.

- a) True
- b) False

ANSWERS

1. (a)

2. (c)

3. (b)

4. (c)

5. (c)

6. (b)

7. (a)

8. (c)

9. (b)

10. (b)

11. (a)

12. (a)