

<p>At this point of its orbit, any solar satellite such as a comet or a planet is farthest away from the sun.</p>	<p><i>What is the <u>aphelion</u>?</i></p>
<p>These small, rocky worlds orbit the sun generally between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter.</p>	<p><i>What is an <u>asteroid</u>?</i></p>
<p>This collection of small, rocky bodies are found orbiting the sun, mostly between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter.</p>	<p><i>What is the <u>asteroid belt</u>?</i></p>
<p>This type of scientist studies the universe outside the Earth's atmosphere. They may use telescopes to study the Moon, the Sun, planets, stars, or galaxies.</p>	<p><i>What is an <u>astronomer</u>?</i></p>
<p>This unit of length is equal to the average distance from the Earth to the Sun; about 150 million kilometers, or 93 million miles.</p>	<p><i>What is an <u>astronomical unit (AU)</u>?</i></p>

<p>This organic molecule is found in solid form in the nucleus of comets. On Earth, it is also present as a gas exhaled by humans and most animals.</p>	<p><i>What is <u>carbon dioxide</u>?</i></p>
<p>The cloud of hot gas formed when a comet passes close to the sun, causing its ices to sublimate,</p>	<p><i>What is the <u>coma</u>?</i></p>
<p>These small bodies are composed of ices and dust and orbit around the sun. They appear as bright, tailed stars when near the Sun.</p>	<p><i>What is a <u>comet</u>?</i></p>
<p>This complex organic molecule contains the information needed for living cells to reproduce.</p> <p>*expand the acronym for extra points</p>	<p><i>What is <u>DNA</u>?</i></p> <p>(<u>deoxyribonucleic acid</u>)</p>
<p>This type of comet tail is visible because it reflects sunlight, and usually appears curved.</p>	<p><i>What is the <u>dust tail</u>?</i></p>

<p>Sometimes called a regular oval, this geometric shape, has two focus points, or foci.</p>	<p><i>What is an <u>ellipse</u>?</i></p>
<p>This group of planets contain most of the non-solar mass of the solar system.</p> <p>*Name them for extra points</p>	<p><i>What are the <u>giant planets</u>? (<u>Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune</u>)</i></p>
<p>This spacecraft was launched on July 2, 1985 to study Comet Halley.</p>	<p><i>What is the <u>Giotto spacecraft</u>?</i></p>
<p>This neutral form of carbon is found in interstellar space as well as in pencils.</p>	<p><i>What is <u>graphite</u>?</i></p>
<p>This matter fills the spaces between stars, and is composed of gas and interstellar dust.</p>	<p><i>What is the <u>interstellar medium</u>?</i></p>

<p>This Dutch astronomer was the first to suggest that many comets come from a large cloud of debris ejected from the early solar system.</p>	<p><i>Who is <u>Jan Van Oort</u>?</i></p>
<p>This band of small objects revolves around the sun outside the orbit of Neptune and is believed to be the source of short period comets.</p>	<p><i>What is the <u>Kuiper Belt</u>?</i></p>
<p>This unit of length is equal to the distance that light travels in one year, or about nine and a half trillion (9,500,000,000) kilometers.</p>	<p><i>What is a <u>light year</u>?</i></p>
<p>These comets come from the Oort Cloud and may take as long as tens of thousands of years to orbit once around the sun.</p>	<p><i>What is a <u>long period comet</u>?</i></p>
<p>Bright streaks in the evening sky, sometimes called shooting stars, and caused by space debris that burns as it falls through Earth's atmosphere.</p>	<p><i>What is a <u>meteor</u>?</i></p>

<p>Most of these fragments of debris left behind in the orbits of comets are very tiny.</p>	<p><i>What is a <u>meteoroid</u>?</i></p>
<p>This beautiful event occurs when the Earth passes through a trail of debris along a comet's orbit, and the many bits of material burn up in the atmosphere.</p>	<p><i>What is a <u>meteor shower</u>?</i></p>
<p>Extraterrestrial debris that reaches the ground before it is completely burned up in the earth's atmosphere.</p>	<p><i>What is a <u>meteorite</u>?</i></p>
<p>This relatively small, solid core of a comet is made of ice, dust and rock and is usually hidden from view.</p>	<p><i>What is the <u>nucleus</u>?</i></p>
<p>This cloud of early planetesimals forms a comet reservoir around the solar system, and is about 100,000 AU across.</p>	<p><i>What is the <u>Oort Cloud</u>?</i></p>

<p>The path that a body in space follows as it revolves around another (for example, the earth around the sun).</p>	<p><i>What is an <u>orbit</u>?</i></p>
<p>Compounds made up of the most common substances, or <i>elements</i> in living systems: carbon, oxygen, nitrogen, and hydrogen.</p>	<p><i>What is <u>organic matter</u>?</i></p>
<p>At this point of its orbit, any solar satellite such as a comet or a planet is closest to the sun.</p>	<p><i>What is the <u>perihelion</u>?</i></p>
<p>The time required for a body like a comet or planet to go once around its orbit and return to the same spot.</p>	<p><i>What is a <u>period</u>?</i></p>
<p>The planets were formed from these small chunks of dust, rocks and frozen gasses as they collided and stuck together.</p>	<p><i>What are <u>planetesimals</u>?</i></p>

<p>A hot gas of charged particles.</p>	<p><i>What is <u>plasma</u>?</i></p>
<p>This comet tail glows with its own light and always points straight away from the sun.</p>	<p><i>What is the <u>plasma tail</u>?</i></p>
<p>To move around continuously on a closed path, like an orbit.</p>	<p><i>What does it mean to <u>revolve</u>?</i></p>
<p>These comets are believed to come from the Kuiper Belt and usually take less than 200 years to revolve once around the sun.</p>	<p><i>What is a <u>short period comet</u>?</i></p>
<p>The cloud of gas and interstellar dust from which the sun and eventually the whole solar system were formed.</p>	<p><i>What is the <u>solar nebula</u>?</i></p>

<p>The sun and everything that revolves around it, including the planets and their moons, asteroids, comets, and all the objects in the Kuiper Belt and the Oort Cloud.</p>	<p><i>What is the <u>solar system</u>?</i></p>
<p>Hot gases and magnetic fields that stream rapidly out of the sun in all directions at all times.</p>	<p><i>What is <u>solar wind</u>?</i></p>
<p>When a solid, such as ice, changes directly into a gas or vapor without becoming a liquid first, it is said to go through this process.</p>	<p><i>What is <u>sublimate</u>?</i></p>
<p>This American astronomer was the first to propose the “dirty snowball” model of comet structure.</p>	<p><i>Who is <u>Fred Whipple</u>?</i></p>