

# The Comet's Tale (key) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Task 2

### *Comet Writing Activity*

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Tell what you know about comets. Write as much as you can about what you think:

- a. comets are
- b. where they come from, and
- c. what they are made of.

**Note:** Below are only a few of the points that could form correct answers. For more information, please consult the Comet's Tale Teacher's Background resource page.

#### a. – Comets are:

- like a dirty snowball
- a small (few km) chunk of frozen gasses (ices) mixed with dust grains and rocks
- part of the solar system
- traveling very fast (comets near perihelion can reach speeds of thousands of kilometers per minute)
- much smaller than the size of the moon

#### b. – Comets come from:

- the Kuiper Belt (short period comets)
- the Oort Cloud (long period comets)
- the same beginning events and materials as planets when the early solar nebula spun -- forming small objects called planetesimals, about a kilometer in size

#### c. – Comets are made of:

- frozen gases (carbon dioxide,
- organic substances (ammonia, formaldehyde, methane)
- dust
- metals
- water