

Build a Comet

Comets are made of ice, gases, rock, dust and organic material. The nucleus is the solid center of the comet and contains ice, gases, dust & rocks, and organic material. The coma surrounds the nucleus and contains gas and dust. It is the 'atmosphere' of the comet.

The flow of energy and particles from the Sun – the solar wind – sweeps gas and dust into long tails. The tail actually has two parts – the dust tail and the ion tail. These can extend for millions of miles. The tail of the comet always points away from the Sun no matter what direction the comet travels because the solar wind always blows out from the Sun.

After completing 'Comet Quest' the children will be ready to use their knowledge and imagination to create a comet!

What You Need:

- ☞ Various craft items such as: Styrofoam balls, glitter, pipe cleaners, beads, confetti, foil, and ribbon
- ☞ Scissors
- ☞ Glue



What to Do:

Have the children review what they've learned about comets so far. Using various craft items help your child use their imagination in building a comet. BE CREATIVE and HAVE FUN! Every comet will be different.

Make sure that your child NAMES the comet when done! Comets are named after their discoverer. Some famous comets are Halley, Hyakutake, and Shoemaker-Levy 9. Around a dozen 'new' comets are discovered each year.

Once your child has completed his or her comet, ask that they share with you the different parts of their model. Do they have a nucleus? Tails?

Parent Prompts:

Ask your child to describe to you what he or she has learned about comets.

Have your child explain to you the parts of a comet and what they may look like.

Ask him or her what comets are made of? See what he or she has learned!