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A mass of ice, rock and dust drifting in space that often has a tail, which grows as it gets closer to the Sun. The tail is made up of water, dust and various gases vaporized by solar energy.

## Comet

A body made up of rocks, both metallic and non-metallic, that orbits the Sun, usually in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter. Some asteroids are comet nuclei. They range in size from a few centimetres to a thousand kilometres.

## Asteroid

A rock, often an asteroid fragment, that is bigger than a grain of sand and orbits the Sun. The term "meteoroid" refers to the object before it enters the atmosphere.

## Meteoroid

A meteoroid that enters the Earth's atmosphere becomes a meteor. It burns up as it travels through the atmosphere, producing a streak of light. A meteor can arrive in Earth's vicinity as a lone object (shooting star) or in clusters (meteor shower).

## Meteor

Meteor that burns as it travels through our atmosphere, leaving behind a very bright streak of light. This rather rare phenomenon is the result of a meteoroid that is larger or denser than usual. Sometimes, it is even visible during the day.

## Fireball

When a meteor does not completely burn up as it travels through the atmosphere, the fragment found on the ground is called a meteorite.

## Meteorite



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