

The Solar System ▪ *Reading/Notetaking Guide***Comets, Asteroids, and Meteors** (pp. 572–575)

This section describes the other objects in the solar system, including comets, asteroids, and meteors.

Use Target Reading Skills

As you read, complete the outline about comets, asteroids, and meteors. Use the red headings for the main ideas. Use the blue headings for subtopics where possible. If there are no blue headings, write your own subtopics.

Comets, Asteroids, and Meteors
I. Comets
A. A Comet's Head
B.
C.
II.
A.
B.
C.
III.
A.
B.
C.

Comets (p. 573)

1. What are comets?

2. What are the three main parts of a comet?

a. _____ b. _____

c. _____

3. What forms a comet's tail?

4. Is the following sentence true or false? A comet's tail can be more than 100 million kilometers long. _____

The Solar System ▪ *Reading/Notetaking Guide*

Comets, Asteroids, and Meteors *(continued)*

5. If the orbit of a comet is 5,000 times the distance between Pluto and the sun, which region is it in? Explain how you know.

Asteroids (p. 574)

6. Rocky objects revolving around the sun that are too small and too numerous to be called planets are called _____.
7. Where is the asteroid belt?

8. What happened when one or more large asteroids collided with Earth about 65 million years ago?

Meteors (p. 575)

Match the term with its definition.

Term	Definition
____ 9. meteoroid	a. A meteoroid that has passed through the atmosphere and hit Earth's surface
____ 10. meteor	b. A chunk of rock or dust in space
____ 11. meteorite	c. A streak of light caused by the heating up of a meteoroid in the atmosphere

12. Where do meteoroids come from?

13. The craters on the moon were caused by the impact of _____.
