



# Exploring Comets

## Reflections on comets, missions and modeling



Created for Deep Impact, A NASA Discovery Mission  
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Student - Reflection

### 1. What are your ideas about comets?

What are comets? Where did they first originate? What components make up a comet? What don't we know about comets? Draw a diagram of what a comet might look like.

### 2. After doing some research, what new ideas do you have about comets, their origin and composition? What are the physical parts of a comet?

Compare your new information with the list that you built as a class. Draw a diagram of a comet as you now understand it.

### 3. What ideas do you have about why scientists explore comets?

Why do they want to know about them? Why would more information make a difference to them?

### 4. Pick one of the **questions scientists had about comets** and decide what kind of mission might find the answer.

How would you investigate a comet? What kind of a mission would you put together? What kind of real or imagined technology would you use? What would you need to know first?

**5. What kind of "model" would you build to test the details of your design and show your comet's possible environment?**

**6. Research to see what real comet space missions exist and what kinds of technologies they are using. [Other Small Bodies Missions](#)**