



Exploring Comets

Reflections on comets, missions and modeling



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

Elicit #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?

Elicit #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.

Elicit #3 - What ideas do you have about why scientists explore comets? Why do they want to know about them? Why would it make a difference?

Elicit #4 – Pick one of the questions scientists still have about comets and design a mission to 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?

Elicit #5 – What kind of “model” would you build to test your design and show your comet’s possible environment?

Elicit #6 – Research to see what real comet space missions exist and what kinds of technologies they are using.