Name _____

Comets & shooting stars

Student Datasheet ...

- What is a meteor, or shooting star?

- What kind of frozen material makes up the center of a comet? How big is it?

- The comet ("like a ghost") that we see in the sky is not a solid object. What is it?

- Which way does the "tail" of a comet blow?

Something else to think about…

There's a cosmic connection between comets and meteors. Almost all meteors are little pieces of a comet's tail that got left behind. When the orbit of the Earth passes through one of these dusty trails, we see shooting stars. Sometimes there are so many it's called a "meteor shower."