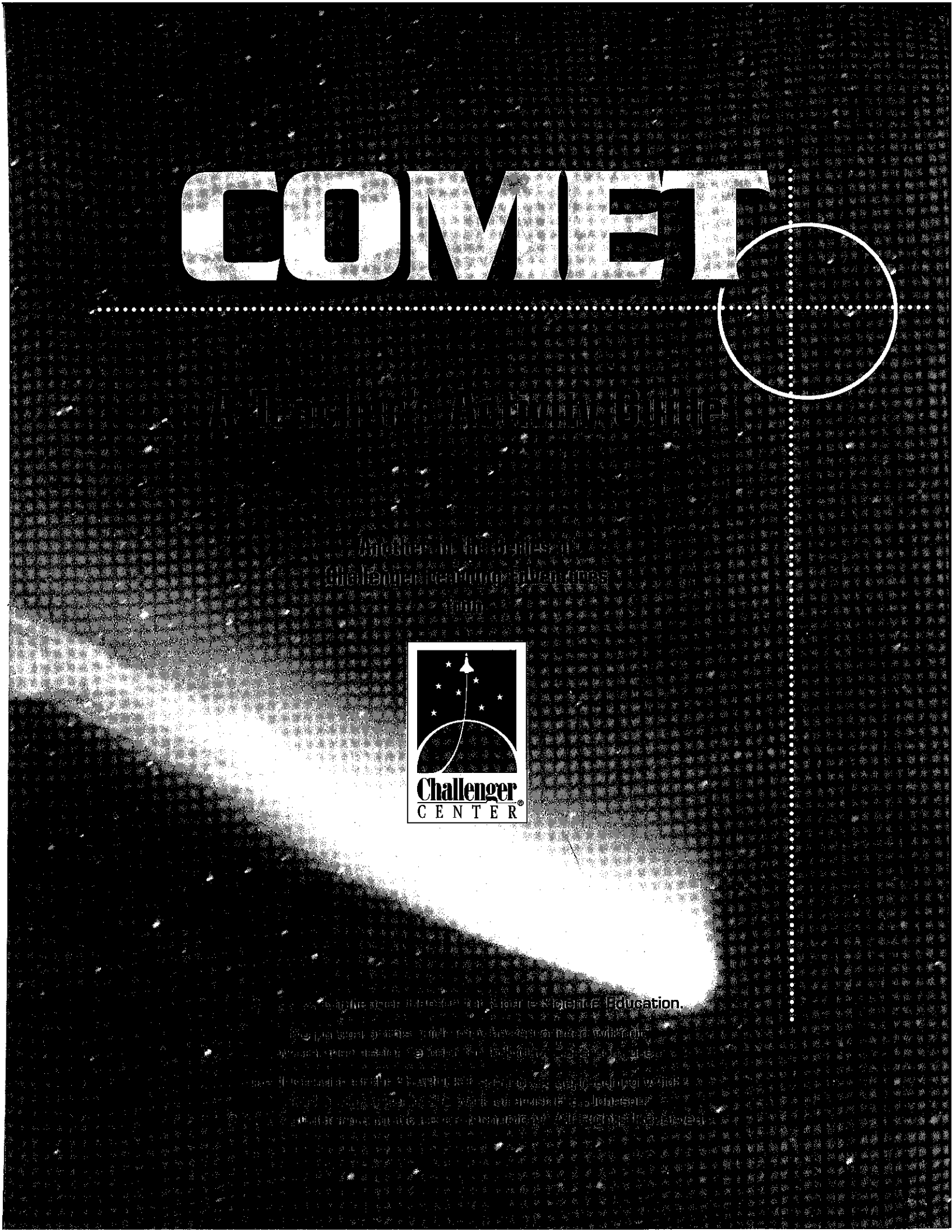
# COMET



PRE-ACTIVITY THINKING WEB

# Investigating a Comet

## Objectives

Students will:

- Create a thinking web
- Explain their knowledge of a comet

## Overview

Brainstorm and create a Thinking Web that demonstrates students' knowledge of comets. This is an opening exercise to introduce comets to students and to assess prior knowledge.

## Key Questions

- Why study comets?
- What would one need to study comets?

## Procedures

1. Reproduce student worksheet and give each student a copy.
2. Have students complete each question on the map and encourage them to draw illustrations to go with their answers.
3. You can use students' answers as an informal method to assess prior knowledge by starting a class discussion. Students' answers will vary. Below are some examples of where to lead the discussion:

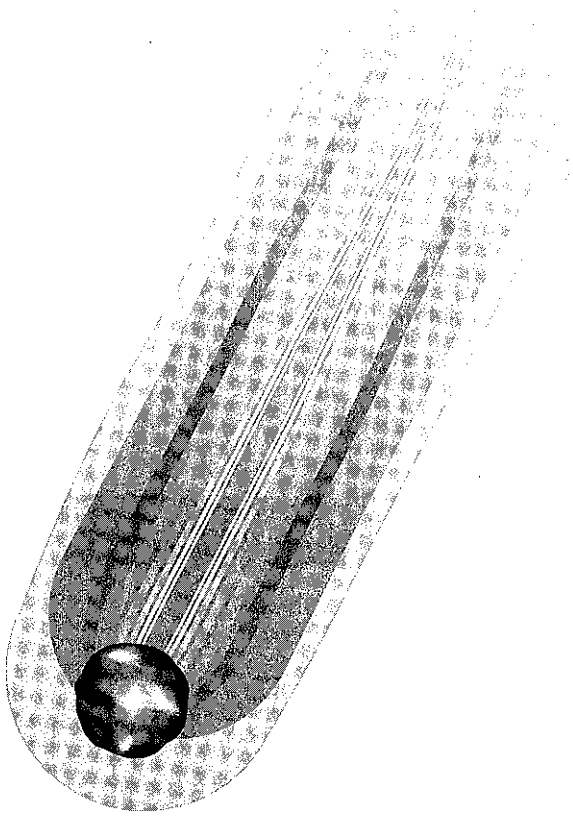
| Examples of Student Responses | Discussion Points |
|---|---|
| A comet is a big rock. | Review the parts and composition of a comet. |
| A comet is like a small planet. | Cover the difference between comets and planets. |
| We should study comets because one might hit the Earth. | Discuss impact craters and the extinction of dinosaurs. |
| Comets and asteroids have different sizes. | Cover the differences between comets and asteroids. |

STUDENT WORKSHEET

# Investigating a Comet

**A comet is . . .**

**A comet looks like . . .**



**We should study comets because . . .**

**A comet is different from an asteroid because . . .**