

Interactive Comet Animation

http://www.windows.ucar.edu/tour/link=/comets/comet_model_interactive.html

Directions: Working in groups (3-4 students), go to the above internet site. Once you are at the site, you should read the introduction. After reading the introduction, you should customize your comet by manipulating the various controls (speed, orbit size, etc.). Once you have experimented with the animation, read the "Things you may have noticed:" section towards the bottom of the page. Using ideas from the previously read section, try experimenting once again with the comet; this time, see if you can adjust the settings to model things described in the section. (i.e. - the tail getting bigger as the comet gets closer to the sun)

Interactive Comet Animation - Windows Internet Explorer

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Interactive Comet Animation

The interactive animation (below) shows some things about how [comets](#) work. Click the "play forward" button to make the comet move around in its orbit. You can make your own "custom comet" by adjusting the orbit size and the eccentricity (how "oval-shaped" the orbit is) of the comet's orbit. Click the "Closeup" tab to get a zoomed-in view of the comet. Click the "Pick Comet" tab if you want to look at some actual comets.

Can you make a comet with a really long tail? How long do comets take to orbit the Sun? If you want to find out more about comets, there is more information further down on this page.

You will need to have the latest version of the [Flash player](#) to see this animation.

Comet Churyumov-Gerasimenko

Backward Stop Forward

Slower Faster

Date: 21 May 2009

Orbit Size = 3.5 AU

Eccentricity = 0.632

Show labels of comet and planets

Zoom in Zoom out

Orbits

Closeup

Pick Comet

Credits

Things you may have noticed:

Internet | Protected Mode: On 100%