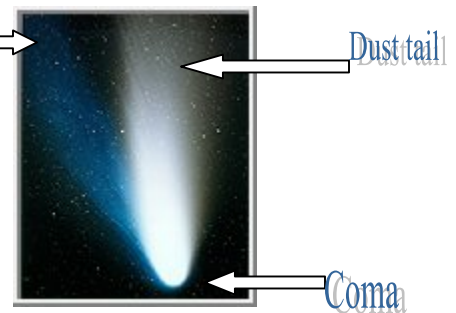


Ominous and mysterious.....beautiful, but elusive....comets are the interlopers from the outer solar system. Ice mountains in space, comets spend most of their time in the dark outer fringes of the Solar system. Only when they approach the Sun, do they form the beguiling double tail that makes the sight of comets so distinct.



Embark on an ambitious journey with us as we unravel the mysteries of comets: where do they originate? What materials comprises them? How often do they appear? Will any of them strike Earth?



Comets have appeared in art works and coinage throughout human history; from the Bayeux Tapestry, to the Adoration of the Magi, to the obverse side of an Augustan age coin.



Though they have been regarded throughout history as ominous signs of impending destruction, today they are the repositories of natural history: Vessels from which we can extract clues to the nature of our early solar system.

Show length: 36 minutes

Suggested age: 10 - adult