

Project: Comets

1. In which constellation is the comet currently located?
2. How many tails do you see associated with the comet?

If possible, identify on your drawing what type of tail each one is.
(How do you know what type of tail it is?)

3. Can you tell just by looking at it in which direction the comet is traveling?
Explain your reasoning.

4. Can you tell just by looking at it in which direction the Sun is located?
Explain your reasoning.

One of the most famous comets is Comet Halley, which was last seen near Earth in 1986, and before that in 1910.

5. Based on this, what is the period of the comet?
6. Given Kepler's third law, estimate the comet's average distance from the Sun.

Halley comet's closest approach to the Sun is 0.587 AU.

7. What is the comet's farthest approach from the Sun (aphelion)?
8. What can you say, then, about the orbit of the comet (as compared to the planets)?
Explain your reasoning.