

Pluto (40 AU from the Sun)

- low density - but higher than terrestrial planets
- extremely cold
- very eccentric orbit
- larger of the Kuiper Belt objects

Kuiper Belt = out where things couldn't form
Oort Cloud =

Solar Nebula = where things originally came from.

Meteors, Asteroids, and Comets

Meteors

- brief streak of light in the sky (burns up due to friction - heat up)
- most burn up in atmosphere
- source = asteroid, and comet fragments
- those that hit the ground = meteorites

Asteroids = between Mars and Jupiter

composed of
one of the 3 =
= 1. Rocky
= 2. Metallic
= 3. Combo

- any chunk of rock, iron, combo

Comets =

head = ball of ice — tail = gaseous material

- gets closer to the sun

- tail forms near the sun when sun's radiation pressure and solar wind blow material

- come from oort cloud

- oort cloud came from solar nebula

- Light from comet comes from reflected sunlight and fluorescent solar UV radiation

- * Halley's Comet = every 76 years

- short period comet appear periodically

- a. repeated passage by sun evaporates ice & drives off gas

- Meteor showers occur when Earth passes through trail.

Asteroids and Comets =

- occasionally objects do strike the Earth

- Object killed the dinosaurs was about 100 meters

- * Most objects are orbiting around the Asteroid Belt

- * Tail of a comet always faces away from the sun

- Polar wind = radiation from the sun

- comet has a coma and a tail