

Asteroids, Comets, and Pluto: The Small Pieces
Discussion Questions

Directions: Answer the following questions as directed by your teacher.

1. Why were scientists looking for a planet between Jupiter and Mars over 200 year ago?
2. What was actually found between Jupiter and Mars?
3. Scientists often create theories. What is a theory and how is it different from facts?
4. What is one of the theories behind the existence of the asteroid belt?
5. What is the process of accretion?
6. What is a shooting star? What is the scientific name of a shooting star?
7. What can scientists learn form meteorites?
8. How is Pluto Different from the other eight planets?
9. If you were a scientist, would you classify Pluto as a planet?
10. Describe an experience when you have seen a comet. What did it look like? Now that we have viewed the program, what are the parts of a comet?
11. Where would you find the Oort Cloud? What would you find in the Oort Cloud?
12. Where would you find the Kuiper Belt? What would you find in Kuiper's Belt?
13. Why are comets so amazing to see? (Hint: There are at least two reasons)
14. What is a meteor shower a result of?
15. Why do you think it is important that scientists study objects in space other than the sun and nine planets?