October 23, 2018

1. Other Celestial Bodies
   1. Asteroids-Any of the thousands of small bodies of space rocks, ranging from 480 miles (775 km) to less than one mile (1.6 km) in diameter that revolve about the sun in orbits lying mostly between Mars and Jupiter.
      1. Ceres was discovered in 1801 as an asteroid, but has been since reclassified as a dwarf planet in 2006. Ceres was the second largest asteroid to Vesta, which orbited closer to the Sun.
      2. Pluto was discovered in 1930 as a planet; however, because it did not meet the commonalities of the other terrestrial planets. It lost its status as a planet in 2006, and was down graded as a dwarf planet. Recent research from 2018, suggests Pluto should be reclassified as a planet.
      3. The Main Asteroid Belt is located between Mars and Jupiter. It was discovered in 1801 by Giuseppe Piazzi (when he discovered Ceres).
      4. In 1943, Kenneth Edgeworth suggested comets and larger bodies might exist beyond Neptune. In 1951 Gerard Kuiper predicted the existence of a belt of icy objects. <https://www.space.com/16144-kuiper-belt-objects.html>
      5. The Kuiper Belt was actually discovered in 1992 by Dave Jewitt and Jane Luu.
   2. Comets are celestial bodies moving about the sun, usually in a highly eccentric orbit. Its central mass is surrounded by an envelope of dust and gas that may form a tail that streams away from the sun.
      1. Halley’s Comet (comes around every 75 years) and the Hale-Bopp Comet, which was discovered in 1997, will come around again in the year 4380. (Don’t write this down, but I don’t anticipate being there, do you?)
   3. Constellations are any of various groups of stars to which definite names have been given, such as Ursa Major, Ursa Minor, Bootes, Cancer, Cygnus, Orion, Cassiopeia, etc.
      1. There are 88 constellations in the sky. Depending on where you live, you may never see all the constellations. Why do you think we can only see so many constellations?
   4. Meteoroids are any of the small bodies, often remnants of comets, traveling through space. When a meteoroid enters the Earth’s atmosphere, it is heated to luminosity and becomes a meteor. When the meteor reaches the Earth’s surface, it becomes a meteorite.