

Space Terminology

Asteroid: small rocky body that orbits the sun, usually in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter

Comet: small body composed of compounds that can melt and evaporate when heated, have radical elliptical orbits, will form long streams of gas and particles when approaching the sun, tail points away from the sun because the "solar wind" blows it this way

Planet: larger more complex object that orbits a star (such as the sun)

Moon: object that orbits a planet

Star: stellar body, mostly composed of gases (hydrogen and helium) that is large enough to create a self sustain nuclear fusion reaction

Star Cluster: a group of stars that have a common origin, could be open or closed (globular cluster)

Galaxy: a large number of stars etc. that orbit a common center (one orbit will take hundreds of millions of years)

Galaxy Clusters: ----