



Name _____ Date _____

Truth or Fiction?

Based on your reading of "Comet Facts, Myths, and Legends," would you say the following statements are true or false?

True False

- 1 It's possible that a big comet striking the Earth killed off the dinosaurs.
- 2 Only a professional astronomer with a powerful telescope can discover a new comet.
- 3 About 100 years ago, some people bought comet-protecting umbrellas and anti-comet pills to protect themselves.
- 4 The closer a comet is to the Sun, the brighter it will appear.
- 5 The ancients thought comets were the power rays of supernatural beings.
- 6 A meteor shower occurs when a lot of comets at once pass over the Earth.

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Answers: 1. True. One theory is that a 10-kilometer comet struck the Earth 70 million years ago and disrupted the environment enough to make it impossible for dinosaurs to live. 2. False. An amateur with binoculars discovered a new comet in 1996, for example. 3. True. People in Chicago panicked in 1910 when a comet passed through the Earth's path. 4. True. Comets are brightest when they are near the Sun. 5. True. People then did not know what comets were. They thought they contained fire. 6. False. A comet leaves behind a trail of debris. If its path crosses Earth's path, then every year for a long time there will be meteor showers as the long-gone comet's debris strikes our atmosphere.