

ANSWERS TO REPRODUCIBLES:

Activity #1: shooting stars (meteors); made of dust and ice (comets); has a tail (comets); speedy streak of light (meteors); smaller than a grain of sand (meteoroids); falling stars (meteors); lasts a second or two (meteors); travels slowly across the night sky (comets); may come in showers or storms (meteors); remains in the sky for many days (comets).

Activity #2: 1. Answers may include: Without gravity, Earth would stop orbiting the Sun and travel on its own into the Milky Way Galaxy. The Milky Way itself would come apart, because the stars would not hold the galaxy together. The moon would stop orbiting Earth and move away in a straight line. 2. A large planet has more gravitational pull, because space curves more sharply around more massive bodies, and this curved space pulls objects more sharply toward it. 3. A black hole is a region of space whose gravitational force is so strong that nothing can escape from it. 4. Black holes are unseen because they are a region of space where gravity is very strong. 5. Answers may include: Robots do things that humans are unable to accomplish; they go on long trips; they don't need air or water; they go on space walks; they take pictures. 6. Voyager 1, Cassini, Stardust