

Name _____

The Role of Small Solar System Bodies in Planetary Science Answer Key

Answer Key:

1. **Near-Earth asteroids are asteroids whose orbits bring them close to Earth; they are significant because they could potentially collide with Earth.**
2. **Because some comets carry water and organic compounds, scientists believe they may have helped deliver essential ingredients for life to Earth.**
3. **The solar wind pushes the comet's tail away from the Sun.**
4. **Comets are made mostly of ice, dust, and gas, while asteroids are rocky or metallic.**
5. **Some meteorites contain carbon-based compounds and amino acids, which may have contributed to the beginnings of life on Earth.**