Comets Quiz

1. What is one major difference between a comet and a shooting star?
   a. Shooting stars can be seen with the naked eye; comets can't
   b. Shooting stars burn up in the earth's atmosphere; comets usually don't
   c. Shooting stars have tails; comets usually don't
   d. Shooting stars are made of hot gases; comets are solid bodies

2. If you wanted to travel to the Kuiper Belt, where would you go?
   a. Between the planet Mercury and the sun
   b. Between Earth and Mars
   c. Between Mars and Jupiter
   d. Beyond the orbit of Neptune

3. What do comets have in common with Earth?
   a. They orbit the sun
   b. They're primarily made of ice and dust
   c. They have north and south magnetic poles
   d. They are both spherical in shape

4. What causes comas to form around comets?
   a. Speed
   b. Light
   c. Heat
   d. Chemical reactions

5. A comet's tail can be as long as:
   a. The distance from New York to Los Angeles
   b. The distance from Chicago to Tokyo
   c. The distance from Earth to Venus
   d. The distance from the sun to the Oort Cloud

6. You can see a comet passing Earth:
   a. Practically every night
   b. Once every few weeks
   c. Once a year
   d. Very rarely

7. Halley's Comet passed Earth in 1986. When is it likely to pass Earth again?
   a. 2016
   b. 2061
   c. 2085
   d. Never

8. What is the major difference between Comet Hyakutake and Halley's Comet?
   a. The lengths of their orbital periods
   b. Their sizes
   c. Their chemical compositions
   d. Their points of origin

9. How old are comets, compared to the rest of the solar system?
   a. They're the same age as the sun
   b. They're younger than the sun, but older than the planets
   c. They're younger than the sun, and the same age as the planets
   d. They're younger than both the sun and the planets

10. In ancient times, comets were regarded as omens. What is the best synonym for "omen?"
    a. Miracle
    b. Star
    c. Living creature
    d. Supernatural message