



Recipe for a 13 Pound Comet

What exactly is a comet? It is made of materials that are fairly common and available. With a little preparation and a few simple precautions, you can build a comet right in your classroom. Here is the recipe for a 13-pound comet.

INGREDIENTS:

- 10 pounds of ice
- 2 pounds of dry ice (frozen carbon dioxide). *Hint: Ask a chemistry teacher how to get some.*
- 1 quart of oil (*motor oil is most realistic, but for easy and environmentally safe disposal, cooking oil is recommended*)
- 1 pint of sand
- 1 pint of dirt
- 3 tablespoons of metal filings
- 1 teaspoon of graphite (pencil lead)
- a dusting of mixed powdered minerals of your choice.

DIRECTIONS:

Always wear gloves, the dry ice is very cold and can burn the skin.

Step 1 Crush the ice and put it in a 5 gallon bucket.

Step 2 Crush the dry. Add crushed dry ice to bucket.

Step 3 Add oil, sand, dirt, and metal filings to the ice mixture in the bucket.

Step 4 Stir and mix.

Step 5 Sprinkle in graphite.

Step 6 Coat with powdered minerals as you like.

Step 7 Stir and compress into a ball. You now have yourself one dirty snowball – the definition of a comet nucleus!

Step 8 Name your comet. Comets are named for the person or persons—up to 3 individuals or one group—who discovered it, or perhaps in this case, who made it.

Step 9 Take a picture of your class with your named comet and share it.

Step 10 It can be stored in a cold freezer as long as you want.

Step 11 Contact NASA to get it launched on the next rocket into space. *Or maybe not!*