

Inventors Wanted

This activity is from *Inventors Wanted* Summer Camp. For more information on how your Challenger Learning Center can obtain a copy of this camp curriculum, contact the Challenger Learning Center of Greater Washington at (703) 837-5640.

To find out how to attend a Challenger Learning Center summer camp, contact your local Learning Center. To find a Learning Center near you, visit www.challenger.org.





Edible Comet

Summer Camp Snacks

GRADE LEVEL

Summer Camp, rising 5th - 7th graders.

DURATION

20 minutes

SCHEDULED TIME

Tuesday, 11:15 a.m.

OVERVIEW

See the Comet Overview in the Counselor's Section for a complete overview on comets. This activity will give campers a quick overview of the comet parts.

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What are the parts of a comet?

OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

- ◆ Identify the parts of a comet

MATERIALS

Per camper:

- ◆ Styrofoam bowl

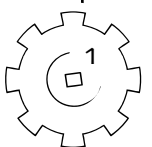
- ◆ Spoon
- ◆ Scoop of vanilla ice cream
- ◆ Ice cream sugar cone
- ◆ Oreo cookie crumbs

PREPARATION & MANAGEMENT

1. Show each ingredient to the campers. Ask them to tell you what parts of a comet each ingredient represents.

2. Have students mix the cookie crumbs into the vanilla ice cream.

3. Have campers scoop this lump of ice cream into the ice cream cone. The ice cream is now the nucleus of the comet. The cone is the tail of the comet. Explain that the tail is actually formed when the ice from the nucleus turns to a gas. The tail is actually gas and dust.



Challenger Center Programs



The internationally acclaimed **Challenger Learning Center** Network currently consists of state-of-the-art, innovative educational simulators located at 49 sites across 29 states, Canada, and the United Kingdom. Staffed by master teachers, the core of each Center is a two-room simulator consisting of a space station, complete with communications, medical, life, and computer science equipment, and a mission control room patterned after NASA's Johnson Space Center. See www.challenger.org for information.

A joint initiative of Challenger Center for Space Science Education, the Smithsonian Institution, and NASA, *Voyage — A Journey through our Solar System* is a space science exhibition project that includes permanent placement of a scale model solar system on the National Mall in Washington, DC, and at locations all over the world. See www.voyageonline.org for information.



Space DaySM launches new *Design Challenges* created by Challenger Center each school year. The inquiry-based challenges are designed to inspire students in grades 4-8 to create innovative solutions that could aid future exploration of our solar system. See www.spaceday.org for information.

Challenger Center's *Journey through the Universe* program provides under-served communities with diverse national resources, including K-12 curriculum materials, teacher workshops, classroom visits by scientists from all over the country, and Family Science Nights. See www.challenger.org/journey for information.



The **MESSENGER** spacecraft (MErcury Surface, Space ENvironment, GEochemistry and Ranging) is to be launched in 2004 and go into Mercurian orbit in 2009. Challenger Center is one of the partner organizations charged with MESSENGER education and public outreach activities. See www.messenger.jhuapl.edu for information.

Through the Challenger Center **Speakers Bureau, Voyages Across the Universe**, staff members speak to student audiences of 30-1,000, conduct workshops for 100-300 educators, give keynote and featured presentations at conferences, as well as conduct Family Science Nights at the National Air and Space Museum, and other facilities across the nation, for audiences of 300-1,000 parents, students, and teachers. See www.challenger.org/speakers for information.

For information about other Challenger Center programs, or to purchase our classroom resources, visit www.challenger.org/store.