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Image source: NASA

Comet Flipbook

Some comets that we see from Earth drift back out of view, but others return again and again, like the famous Halley's Comet which is visible every 76 years. Scientists can predict the return of a comet by examining its movement through the sky, and use that information to figure out where it will be next. Make an animated flipbook to predict how one comet will move through the sky as seen from Earth.

Materials

Printed flipbook pages (page 2)
Pen or pencil
Scissors

Directions

1. **Print** the template (page 2), which has 8 flipbook pages with grids where you'll draw the comet's path. Two of the grids have already been filled in. This is the information we currently have about the comet.
    a. On page 1 it was in the top left corner.
    b. On page 2 the comet moved **two squares to the right** and **one square down**.

2. We know this comet is traveling in a straight line, without speeding up or slowing down. That means that it will keep moving the same way it did before.
    a. **Think**: if the comet keeps moving **two squares to the right** and **one square down**, where will it be on page 2?
    b. **Draw** a picture of the comet on page 3 in the place where you think it will end up.
    c. **Repeat** this for the rest of the pages.

3. **Assemble** the flipbook.
    a. **Cut** each page out along the dotted line
    b. **Stack** all of the pages in order, so that page 1 is on the top.
    c. **Staple** the flipbook together along the left edge. Otherwise you can pinch the left edge to hold it together while you flip it.

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