

Sequences in Orbit



Part A:

Halley's Comet last crossed our skies in 1986. The time before that was in 1910 and the time before that was in 1834.

Part B:

1. When do you think Halley's Comet will appear again? Explain.
2. Calculate Halley's Comet's next three appearances. Explain.
3. Halley's Comet appeared in 1530 around the same time King Henry VIII declared himself head of the Church of England. When were its next three appearances? Explain.
4. When were its previous three appearances, before 1530? Explain.
5. How many appearances of Halley's Comet can we expect in the next 500 years? Explain.
6. The comet Denning-Fujikawa was discovered in 1879. It can be seen every 9 years. Its last appearance was in 2005. How many times has this comet come within viewing distance since its discovery and 2005? Explain.