

Early Solar System Collisions Research Paper

In a 3 page essay answer the following question:

What was the roll of collisions in the formation of the early solar system?

Our solar system began as a an amorphous cloud of gas and dust and gradually coalesced into the system of our Sun and planets that we know and love today. In between, gravity and collisions were two of the most major players in understanding how our solar system came to look the way it does today.

In answering the research question, explore the following:

1. What was the roll of collisions in determining the disk-shape of our solar system, as well as the direction that disk rotates?
2. What was the roll of collisions in determining which of that original gas and dust became our Sun and which became the planets?
3. What was the roll of collisions in the formation of planetary moons?

Layout:

Your research paper should be written in three sections. These can be organized explicitly, with sub-headings, or organized more implicitly. The sections are:

I. What I Know, Assume, or Imagine

II. The Search

II. What I Discovered

What I Know, Assume, or Imagine:

Before conducting any formal research, write a section in which you explain to the reader what you think you know, what you assume or what you imagine about the topic. What do you think the answer to the research question is and why?

The Search:

Test your knowledge, assumptions or conjectures by researching your paper topic thoroughly. Conduct first-hand activities like writing letters, making telephone calls, initiating face to face interviews, and going on field trips. Also, consult useful secondhand sources such as books, magazines, newspapers, films, tapes, electronic sources, and so on. Be sure to record all the information you gather. You might want to do some of the following: arrange an interview with an expert such as a university professor or JPL employee, as well as check out a book on the subject, read several pertinent articles, or see a film. Write your search up in a narrative form, relating the steps of the discovery process . Do not feel obligated to tell everything, but highlight the happenings and facts you uncovered that were crucial to your hunt and contributed to your understanding of information using documentation when appropriate.

What I Discovered:

After concluding your search, compare what you thought you knew, assumed, or imagined with what you actually discovered; assess your overall learning experience; and offer some personal commentary about the value of your discoveries and/or draw some conclusions. The results may surprise you.

Documentation:

Your paper must include a bibliography with at least three separate sources. No points will be awarded to essays without a bibliography. MLA format.

Format:

2 - 3 pages + bibliography, 12 pt font, Times New Roman, double-spaced, 1" margins