

## Man proposes beneath once-in-6,800-year comet

26th July, 2020



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A man has proposed to his fiancée during an event that occurs just once every 6,800 years or so - give or take a decade or two. John Nicotera, 33, popped the question to his now affianced Erica

Pendrak, 26, while the Neowise comet passed over their heads. It will be another seven millennia before anyone else can get down on one knee and propose while the celestial body flies overhead. Mr Nicotera is a space buff. He knew the rare astronomical event would take place in the Northern Hemisphere for a limited time and planned his proposal to coincide with the comet being visible in the night sky. The couple drove to a campsite outside New York last week and John waited for the comet to appear.

Ms Pendrak immediately accepted Mr Nicotera's proposal. She told reporters that she knew her fiancé was taking her to see the once-in-a-lifetime event. She said she got the surprise of her life when he dropped down to one knee. She said: "I was just completely shocked - tears and everything. I felt instant chills and pure happiness." A photographer friend went to the campsite with the couple to capture the proposal with the comet whizzing by across the heavens. John and Erica are both teachers who like experiencing historical events together. John said: "Every single star was out. It was too special to let it go. I thought, 'I'm massively in love with this girl. I'm going to do it.'"

Sources: [dailymail.co.uk](http://dailymail.co.uk) / [cnn.com](http://cnn.com) / [fox6now.com](http://fox6now.com)

### Writing

Marriage is forever. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

proposed / decade / fiancé / pop the question / millennia / celestial body / couple / reporters / once-in-a-lifetime / surprise / shocked / happiness / comet / being in love

### True / False

- a) A man proposed under a comet that last appeared in 6,800 BC. T / F
- b) The man who proposed has a big interest in space. T / F
- c) The man said the proposal was totally spontaneous. T / F
- d) The man proposed in a park in New York City. T / F
- e) The lady took some time before accepting the marriage proposal. T / F
- f) The lady cried after the man proposed. T / F
- g) A friend of the couple took photos of the marriage proposal. T / F
- h) The man and woman are both teachers. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                               |                    |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. <b>occurs</b>              | a. solitary        |
| 2. <b>popped the question</b> | b. happen together |
| 3. <b>buff</b>                | c. flying          |
| 4. <b>astronomical</b>        | d. enthusiast      |
| 5. <b>coincide</b>            | e. shock           |
| 6. <b>surprise</b>            | f. takes place     |
| 7. <b>pure</b>                | g. enormously      |
| 8. <b>whizzing</b>            | h. unadulterated   |
| 9. <b>single</b>              | i. proposed        |
| 10. <b>massively</b>          | j. celestial       |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of the marriage proposal?
- b) How romantic should a marriage proposal be?
- c) What do you know about comets?
- d) How would you propose?
- e) Should people who propose always get down on one knee?
- f) How much should someone spend on the engagement ring?
- g) Should marriage be forever?
- h) Why is it that the man usually proposes?

## Phrase Match

- |                                   |                        |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. A man has proposed             | a. happiness           |
| 2. the Neowise comet passed       | b. comet being visible |
| 3. get down on                    | c. lifetime event      |
| 4. Mr Nicotera is a space         | d. one knee            |
| 5. coincide with the              | e. with this girl      |
| 6. see the once-in-a-             | f. to his fiancée      |
| 7. I felt instant chills and pure | g. events together     |
| 8. whizzing by across the         | h. buff                |
| 9. experiencing historical        | i. heavens             |
| 10. I'm massively in love         | j. over their heads    |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- How nerve-racking do you think it is to propose?
- Have you ever seen a once-in-a-lifetime event?
- When was the last time you felt the chills?
- When was the last time you felt pure happiness?
- What historical events have you experienced?
- What's the most special experience you've had?
- What questions would you like to ask an astronomer?

## Spelling

- A man has proposed to his féaicen
- popped the question to his now finafeadc
- another seven nianmlle
- while the slectlaei body flies overhead
- the rare astiocloamrn event
- dniocce with the comet being visible
- Ms Pendrak meimiydleta accepted
- I felt instant clsilh and pure happiness
- tpacrue the proposal
- with the comet gihnziwz by across the heavens
- experiencing oitatshr events
- I'm esvaymsil in love with this girl

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. i	3. d	4. j	5. b
6. e	7. h	8. c	9. a	10. g

## Role Play

### Role A – Under A Comet

You think under a comet is the best place to propose. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least romantic of these (and why): on a beach, Venice or a romantic restaurant.

### Role B – On A Beach

You think on a beach is the best place to propose. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least romantic of these (and why): under a comet, Venice or a romantic restaurant.

### Role C – Venice

You think Venice is the best place to propose. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least romantic of these (and why): on a beach, under a comet or a romantic restaurant.

### Role D – A Romantic Restaurant

You think a romantic restaurant is the best place to propose. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least romantic of these (and why): on a beach, Venice or under a comet.

## Speaking – Proposals

Rank these with your partner. Put the best places to propose at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                         |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| • On a mountain         | • Under a comet |
| • Antarctica            | • In a desert   |
| • Venice                | • On a beach    |
| • A romantic restaurant | • In a temple   |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.