

Example 3 Linear

The equation that models a comet travelling at terminal velocity towards Earth is:

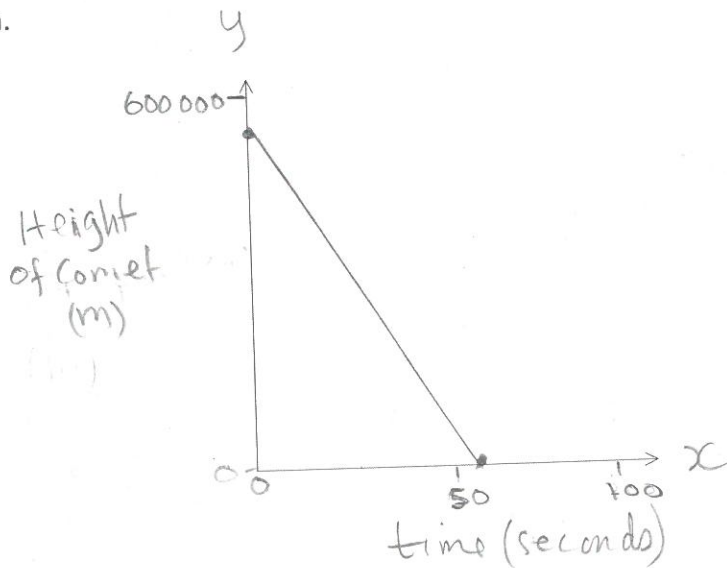
$$y = -10000x + 560000$$

where y represents the height of the comet (in metres) and x represents the time in seconds after the comet entered the Earth's atmosphere.

a) Sketch the graph of this situation.

Window

x -min 0
 x -max 200
 y -max 600 000
 y -min = 0



b) How high will the comet be after 5 seconds?

$\boxed{2nd} \boxed{TRACE} \boxed{ENTER} \boxed{x=5} \quad y = 510\,000$

After 5 seconds, the comet will be 510 000 m above Earth.

c) When will the comet reach a height of 100 m?

$\boxed{y=100} \boxed{2nd} \boxed{TRACE} \boxed{5-intersect} \boxed{ENTER} \leftarrow 3 \text{ times}$

$x = 55.99$

After 55.99 seconds, the comet will reach a height of 100 m.

d) After how many seconds will the comet hit the ground?

$\boxed{y=0} \boxed{2nd} \boxed{TRACE} \boxed{5} \boxed{ENTER} \leftarrow 3 \text{ times} \quad \boxed{y=0} \boxed{x=56}$

After 56 seconds, the comet will hit the ground.