



Meteors

There are lots of objects that we see in the sky. During the day we see the sun. After the sun sets in the evening we see mostly the stars. Not all the lights in the sky that we see are really stars. Of course, we see the moon. Some of the other lights in the sky are planets. Planets revolve around the sun like earth does.

Once in awhile someone will see what they call a shooting star. A shooting star looks like a star that is moving quickly across the sky. Some people believe that seeing a shooting star will bring them good luck. It's hard to find a shooting star because they disappear fast.

The correct name for a shooting star is meteor. Besides very large objects like stars, planets and moons, space has lots of little objects. These can be rocks in space left over from old planets. These objects can even be as small as a speck of dust. These objects are called meteorites.

When a meteorite gets close to the earth, it gets pulled towards earth by gravity. Earth is surrounded by atmosphere. Atmosphere is made up of air and clouds. A meteorite blows up in the earth's atmosphere. This makes the short bright moving light in the night sky. A meteorite turns into a meteor.



Name: _____

Multiple Choice

Circle the correct answer.

1. During the day what do we see in the sky?

- a. Sun
- b. Planets
- c. Stars

2. At night the sky is filled mostly with

- a. Moon
- b. Planets
- c. Stars

3. Some people believe that seeing a shooting star brings

- a. Good health
- b. Good luck
- c. Bad luck

4. A shooting star is really a

- a. Meteor
- b. Meteorite
- c. Moon

5. A meteor is pulled to earth by

- a. Atmosphere
- b. Gravity
- c. The moon



Name: _____

Short Answer

1. How are other planets like the earth?
2. What does a shooting star look like?
3. Why do think that people say seeing a shooting star will bring them good luck?
4. What is the difference between a meteor and a meteorite?
5. What is the earth's atmosphere?
6. Sometime a huge meteor lands on earth and makes a large hole called a crater. Find a picture of Meteor Crater in Arizona.



Answer Key

Multiple Choice

1. a.
2. c.
3. b.
4. a.
5. b.

Short Answer

1. Planets revolve around the sun like earth does.
2. A shooting star looks like a star that is moving quickly across the sky.
3. Individual response
4. Meteorites can be rocks in space left over from old planets or can be as small as a speck of dust. Meteorites turn into meteors when they enter the earth's atmosphere.
5. Earth is surrounded by atmosphere. Atmosphere is made up of air and clouds.
6. Individual response

