

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## A Fiery Descent: What Happens to a Meteoroid When it Enters Earth's Atmosphere?

### Short Answer Key

1. Friction with air molecules generates heat and causes the outer layers of the meteoroid to vaporize, creating a luminous trail or meteor.
2. The stages include the initial meteoroid phase, the meteor phase when it glows, and the potential meteorite phase if it reaches the Earth's surface.
3. Meteorites are valuable for studying the composition of the early solar system and the formation of celestial bodies.
4. Yes, a meteoroid can emit visible light when it encounters the Earth's atmosphere, typically during the meteor phase.
5. Answers may vary but should include the meteoroid's entry, glowing trail formation, and potential disappearance.

