

Name _____

How Do Meteors Burn Up in the Mesosphere Before Reaching Earth?

Short Answer Key

1. The mesosphere is the third layer of the atmosphere, about 30 to 50 miles above Earth.
2. It burns up due to friction with the air.
3. The friction between the meteor and air makes it hot enough to catch fire.
4. Most meteors are small and burn up completely before reaching the ground.
5. A meteor is a space rock burning in the atmosphere; a meteorite is a piece that reaches the ground.

