

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Meteor Mayhem: Can Meteors Cause Damage on Earth's Surface?

### Short Answer Key

1. The size, speed, and composition of a meteoroid influence the potential damage it can cause upon impact. Larger, faster, and denser meteoroids are more likely to create significant damage.
2. Meteoroids are often called "shooting stars" because they appear as bright streaks of light when they heat up and glow upon entering Earth's atmosphere.
3. An example of a historical meteorite impact is the Meteor Crater in Arizona, which is a massive crater created by a meteorite impact around 50,000 years ago.
4. Scientists monitor near-Earth objects (NEOs) and study ways to prevent or mitigate potential catastrophic impacts through early detection and international cooperation.
5. Detecting and tracking near-Earth objects (NEOs) is significant for Earth's safety because it allows us to prepare for and potentially prevent catastrophic impacts that could have devastating consequences.

