

Name _____

Meteor Showers: Celestial Fireworks in the Night Sky

Short Answer Key

1. Meteor showers occur more often than we might think because they result from Earth passing through the debris left behind by comets and asteroids, which happens regularly.
2. Comets release gas and dust into space when heated by the Sun, and this dust becomes meteoroids that create meteor showers. Asteroids do not release dust in the same way.
3. Choosing a dark, rural location away from artificial lights is essential because light pollution can diminish the visibility of meteor showers, making them harder to see.
4. The "meteor shower maximum" is the peak activity of a meteor shower when the most meteors are visible per hour, enhancing the overall experience of witnessing a meteor shower.
5. Answers may vary. Example: "I plan to watch the Perseid meteor shower in August. I'll head to a nearby park away from city lights, bring a comfortable chair and warm blankets, and start stargazing around 2 AM."

