

Name _____

What Is A Meteor?

Short Answer Key

1. Most meteors originate from comets and asteroids. As a meteoroid enters Earth's atmosphere, it experiences intense friction and heating, resulting in the visible streak of light known as a meteor.
2. A typical meteor is a regular meteor, while a fireball is exceptionally bright and large.
3. Meteor showers occur when Earth's orbit intersects with the debris trails left by comets. The debris particles enter Earth's atmosphere, creating numerous meteors and a spectacular display.
4. People make wishes upon shooting stars due to the belief that meteors have the power to grant wishes. This tradition has its roots in folklore and mythology.
5. Studying meteorites found on Earth can provide insights into the early formation of planets, the composition of the solar system's building blocks, and the conditions in the early solar system.

