

METEOR TERMINOLOGY

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ASTEROID

A large meteoroid.
From 1 meter to hundreds of kilometers.

COMET
A solid body made of ice, rock, dust and frozen gases. As they fracture and disintegrate, some comets leave a trail of solid debris.
Nucleus (solid part): from 16 to 60 km,
Tail: hundreds of millions of km.

METEOROID

Small rocky, iron or icy debris flying in space.
From microns to 1 meter.



METEOR

The light emitted from a meteoroid or an asteroid as it enters the atmosphere.

METEOR SHOWERS

An event that occurs during the same time each year when the Earth passes through a region having a great concentration of debris, such as particles left by a comet. From Earth, it looks like meteors radiate from the same point in the night sky.

FIREBALL

A meteor brighter than the planet Venus.

BOLIDE

A large fireball meteor that explodes in the atmosphere.

METEORITE

A fragment of a meteoroid or an asteroid that survives passage through the atmosphere and hits the ground.
From few grams to several dozen of tonnes.

