

METEOR TERMINOLOGY

AMERICAN METEOR SOCIETY - WWW.AMSMETEORS.ORG



ASTEROID

Small rocky, iron or icy debris flying in space.
From 1 meter to hundreds of kilometers.

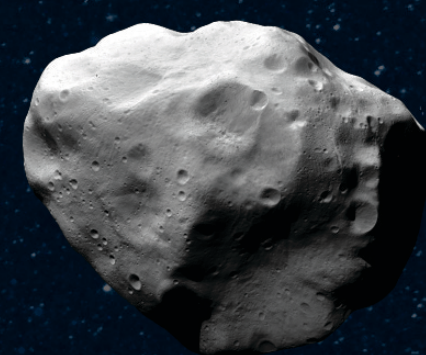
COMET

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): tens of kilometers,
Tail: millions of kilometers.

METEOROID

A small asteroid.
From microns to 1 meter.



METEOR SHOWER

An annual event, 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.

METEOR

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

FIREBALL

A meteor brighter
than the planet Venus.

BOLIDE

The light emitted by a large
meteoroid or an asteroid as it
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.

