

Space Rocks!

What's that bright object in the night sky? It could be an asteroid, meteor, or comet you spy! These celestial sights are just a few examples of space rocks. Some orbit the sun, while others speed through Earth's atmosphere. How can you tell which is which? Let's discover some of the rockin' features that fill the solar system and beyond!

- ✓ Asteroids are small rocks that orbit the sun. Often called "minor planets," these objects are usually located between Mars and Jupiter.
- ✓ Comets are pieces of ice and dust with a solid core. When they get near the sun, its heat causes them to release bright tails pointing away from the sun.
- ✓ Most meteors, meteoroids, and meteorites are made of rocky minerals and metals. Tons of this material fall on Earth each day, but most of it burns up in the atmosphere.

Circle the 8 differences in the images below.



Meteor-what?

Meteoroids that enter Earth's atmosphere are called meteors. As they burn up, meteors release tails of light that inspired their other name—shooting stars! Meteors rarely make it to our planet's surface, but when they do, the particles of debris are known as meteorites.



“Thus says the LORD: ‘Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool. Where is the house that you will build Me? And where is the place of My rest? For all those things My hand has made, and all those things exist,’ says the LORD.” (Isaiah 66:1–2)

Comet Craft

Supplies: a chopstick or popsicle stick, colored ribbon, scissors, and three squares of aluminum foil

1. Cut several pieces of ribbon and string.
2. Tie or tape the ribbon pieces to the top of the stick.
3. Bundle one foil square around the knots.
4. Repeat with the other two squares.
5. Run and watch the comet's tail stream behind you.



Answers to shadow match: 1d, 2c, 3b, 4a