



Meteorites in Ancient Times

Comprehension Task

Classroom Activity

Overview

Age Range:

11-13

Prep. Time:

5 minutes

Lesson Time:

Up to 1 hr 30 mins

Cost per activity:

None - Low

Includes the use of:

Internet for further activity

Outline

In this activity students will learn about the uses people have found for meteorites through history and across a variety of cultures.

They will need to use their comprehension skills to read through the document and then answer the set questions. Finding the corresponding parts within the document.

This activity can be completed as a solo task or as pairs.

Pupils will Learn:

- How to analyse a piece of text for the relevant information
- How meteorites have played a role and affected cultures throughout history
- Improves students literacy skills

Lesson Plan:

Overview of the time required to complete lesson.

Description	Time	Notes
Introduction to the subject	15 min	
Activity 1	30 min	Use pdf 'Meteorites in Ancient Times' and the tasks in the student guide.

Online Observatory: onlineobservatory.eu

The online observatory collaboration consists of the following partners:

Baldone Observatory, Brorfelde Observatory, Cardiff University, Harestua Solar Observatory, Helsinki Observatory



Break	15 min	
Activity 2 - Option 1	15 min	Hands on with meteorites
Activity 2 - Option 2	30 min	Article Writing

Introduction to the subject:

Teacher will tell students that asteroids are rocky objects, sometimes called planetoids or planetesimals, orbiting the Sun. They lay within Jupiter's orbit, many within the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter. Those with orbits that bring them close to earth are called near-earth asteroids, or NEAs.

When a NEA enters Earth's atmosphere it becomes a meteor and begins burning up. It is not called a meteorite until it is on the ground.

Activity 1:

- Distribute the 'Meteorites in ancient times' document, either physically or electronically.

The teacher will introduce the activity. Let students know it may be beneficial to them to read through the task first.

1. Students should be allocated a quiet period in which to read through the relevant document.
2. Have them complete the provided tasks, referring back to the document if needed.
3. As a class discuss interesting points students have noticed in the document

Assessment:

Answers can be found in the pdf 'ModelAnswers_MeteoritesComprehensionTask' or the supporting 'Meteorites in Ancient Times' document.

Further Activities:

- If you have access to meteorites it would be beneficial to bring them out and pass them around the class, discuss what features the students can notice about the meteorites (e.g. density, are they magnetic, surface features like a burnt crust)
- Continue with the comprehension task, either by adding your own questions to activity 1 or having students carry out their own research into meteorite properties and uses. Then ask them to write an article, for a newspaper, magazine or website, of their own.

The online observatory collaboration consists of the following partners:

Baldone Observatory, Brorfelde Observatory, Cardiff University, Harestua Solar Observatory, Helsinki Observatory