

METEORITES

Although people argue about whether aliens have landed on Earth, we do know that alien *material*, composed of rock or metal, has landed on our planet. Earth, with its atmosphere, is better protected from meteorites than the moon. However, occasionally, meteorites have penetrated the atmosphere and hit the surface of our planet.

Usually these chunks of burning rock have splashed harmlessly into the vast ocean, but there is evidence in various regions of the world that they have struck the land. Fortunately this has always been in areas of low human population. A huge crater in Arizona in the USA, more than a kilometre across, is believed to have been caused by a meteorite fifty thousand years ago.

In recent times, a meteorite weighing 197 kilograms landed intact on the American plains. Thirty-eight years later, in 1908, an enormous meteorite exploded just before it landed in Siberia, a sparsely populated area of Russia. Trees for a distance of up to ten kilometres in every direction were flattened and the reverberation of the explosion was heard more than five hundred kilometres away.

PROBE Copyright TRIUNE PUBLICATIONS 1999

Noun count

Average noun frequency level: 5.94

Approximate age range: 12 - 14 years

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.daneprairie.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.