

## **Asteroid Belts, Meteorites & Comets**

### **Asteroid Belts:**

Asteroids are small celestial objects made of \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_. They orbit the sun, but like Pluto are too small to be called planets.

Most asteroids are found in a place called the "Asteroid Belt".

The asteroid belt is between the orbits of \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Meteoroids:**

Meteoroids are pieces of \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ that are smaller than asteroids.

Sometimes they get pulled to earth by earth's \_\_\_\_\_, but are burnt up by the friction. Which creates the line of light in the sky. Like a shooting star.

Meteoroids can create \_\_\_\_\_ on the earth's surface. If they hit the earth.

### **Meteor Showers and Smaller members of the Solar system.**

There are billions of smaller members of our solar system, they are usually made up of rock and metal, even ice.

Each night on average there is a \_\_\_\_\_ in the sky, every 15 minutes.

They are caused by when the cloud particles are left behind by comets when they enter the atmosphere of a planet.

### **Comets:**

Comets are large chunks of \_\_\_\_\_ that orbit the earth.

There are two kinds of comets: \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ period comets.

A short period comet is from the place just beyond the orbit of Neptune and travels around the sun in less than 200 years.

A long period comet is farther away than Pluto and takes more than 200 years to orbit the sun. When comets get close to the sun they begin to **sublimate**, (changing state)

### **Comet Facts:**

- If a comet goes too close to another planet it can be pulled in by the planets \_\_\_\_\_.
- Some planets take longer than others to orbit around the sun.
- Halley's comet is the most common \_\_\_\_\_ comet.