

## Meteors

Have you ever seen a shooting star? Shooting stars look like bright lines of fast-moving light that form in the night sky. They last a very short time. Shooting stars are not really stars but meteors.

A **meteor** forms when a meteoroid hits Earth's atmosphere. A **meteoroid** is a small piece of rock moving in space. Meteoroids are boulder-sized or smaller. Most are the size of pebbles or grains of sand. When a meteoroid shoots through the air, it heats up quickly. It gets so hot that it glows as a streak of light. Very bright meteors are called fireballs. Most meteors burn up before they hit Earth's surface. If a meteor does not burn up completely, it may fall

to Earth. A piece of a meteor that lands on Earth is called a **meteorite**. Most meteorites are quite small. The biggest known meteorite is in Namibia, Africa, and weighs 60 tons.

**Look the picture and calculate the size of the meteor. Put an X on the circle that best represents the probable size of the meteor.**

The diameter of this crater may be 24 times larger than the diameter of the meteor that formed it. Measure the crater from point A to point B.

*Meteor Crater, in Arizona, was formed by a meteorite impact.*

