Name: _____ Date: _____

Shooting Stars Are Tiny Rocks

Circle group

Look up on a dark night. You may see a line of light zip by. It is a shooting star.

It is not a star. It is a tiny rock from space. It can be as small as a grain of sand.

The rock zooms into our air. The air makes it hot. It glows. Then it burns up. Zip! Gone.

Questions

1. What do you see when a shooting star zips by?

_____

_____

2. Is a shooting star a real star?

_____

_____

3. How small can the rock be?

_____

_____

4. Why does the rock glow?

_____

_____

5. What happens to the rock at the end?

_____

_____

Words to know

zip: to move very fast
grain: one tiny piece, like one bit of sand
glows: shines with a soft light
zooms: moves very fast

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Shooting Stars Are Tiny Rocks

Triangle group

Look up on a dark night. You might see a line of light zip across the sky. It is called a shooting star.

But it is not a star at all. It is a tiny bit of rock from space. It is often as small as a grain of sand.

The rock zooms into our air. The air makes it hot, so it glows. Then it burns up. Zip! It is gone.

Questions

1. What do you see when a shooting star zips by?

_____

_____

2. Is a shooting star a real star?

_____

_____

3. How small is the rock?

_____

_____

4. Why does the rock glow?

_____

_____

5. What happens to the rock at the end?

_____

_____

Words to know

zip: to move very fast
grain: one tiny piece, like one bit of sand
glows: shines with a soft light
zooms: moves very fast

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Shooting Stars Are Tiny Rocks

Square group

If you look up into the sky on a dark night, you may see a bright line of light zip across it. People call this a shooting star.

However, it is not a star at all. It is really a tiny piece of rock from space, and it is often only as big as a grain of sand.

The rock zooms into the air around our Earth. The air makes the rock so hot that it glows, and then it burns up. Zip! In a moment, it is gone.

Questions

1. What do you see when a shooting star zips across the sky?

_____

_____

2. Is a shooting star really a star?

_____

_____

3. How big is the rock often?

_____

_____

4. Why does the rock glow as it comes in?

_____

_____

5. What happens to the rock after it glows?

_____

_____

Words to know

zip: to move very fast
grain: one tiny piece, like one bit of sand
glows: shines with a soft light
zooms: moves very fast

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: Shooting Stars Are Tiny Rocks

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: Shooting Stars Are Tiny Rocks

Easier · 61 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade -1.2

1. A line of light.
2. No, it is a tiny rock.
3. As small as a grain of sand.
4. The air makes it hot.
5. It burns up.

Triangle: Shooting Stars Are Tiny Rocks

This passage · 72 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade -0.4

1. A line of light across the sky.
2. No, it is a tiny bit of rock.
3. Often as small as a grain of sand.
4. The air makes it hot.
5. It burns up.

Square: Shooting Stars Are Tiny Rocks

Harder · 89 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.4

1. A bright line of light.
2. No, it is a tiny piece of rock from space.
3. Only as big as a grain of sand.
4. The air makes it very hot.
5. It burns up.