

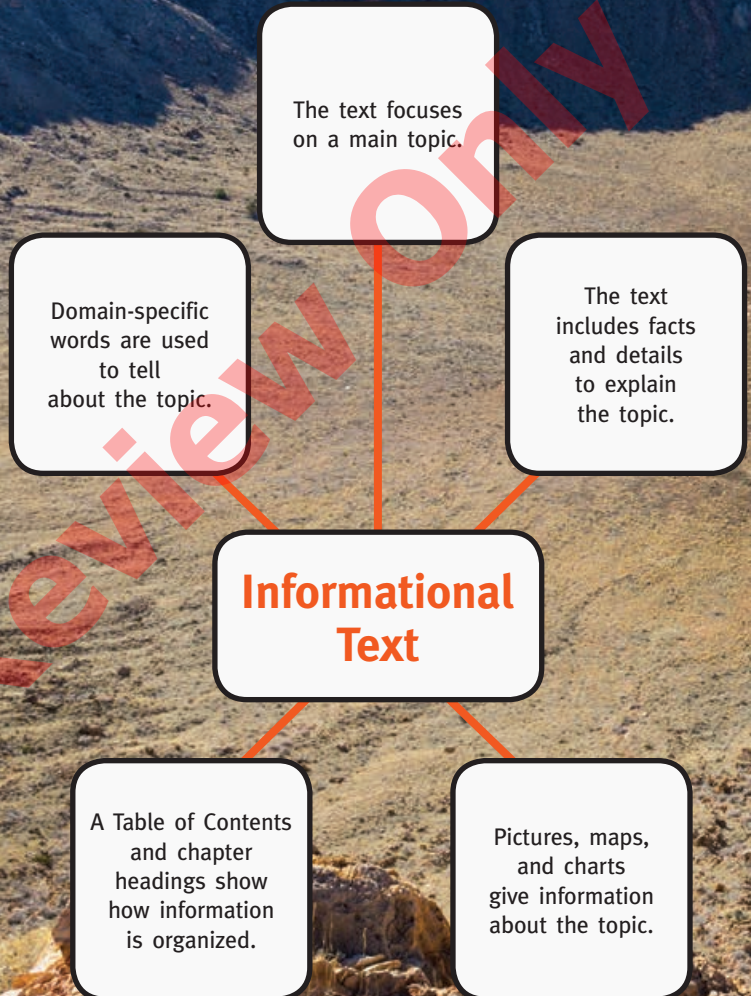
Meteorites on Earth

Level J/18

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Informational Text

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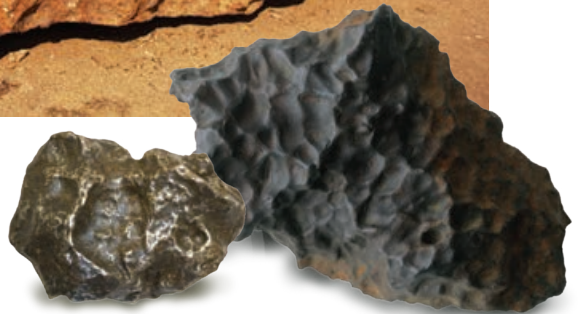
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What Are Meteorites?

Meteorites are rocks that have traveled through space and landed on Earth. They can be as small as a bean or as big as a car.



▲ These are meteorites.



Meteorites fall on Earth all the time.
They have been found at the South Pole
and in the Sahara Desert.



▲ This meteorite is in a museum.

Meteorites are mainly made up of rocks and minerals. There are others that are a mixture of rock and iron.



▲ There are different kinds of meteorites.

Scientists study meteorites to find out how Earth was made. They also study them to find out what has happened on the planet since it was formed.

- ▼ Richard B. Hoover, a scientist, studies meteorites.

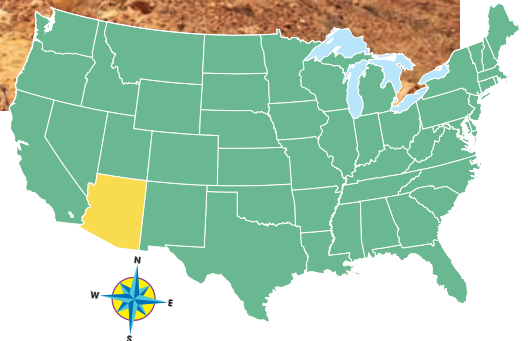


What Is a Crater?

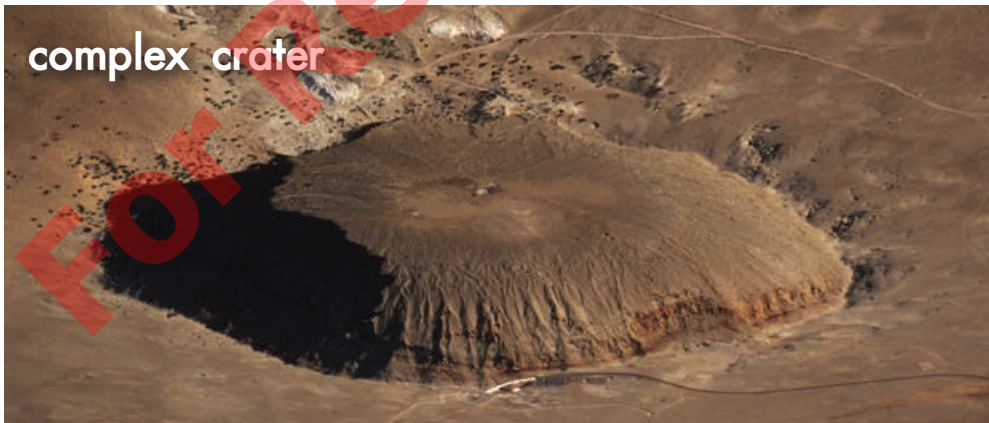
A long time ago, very large meteorites hit Earth. These rocks left big holes in the ground. These holes are called **craters**.

The Barringer Crater measures one kilometer wide (more than half a mile).

▲ The Barringer Crater is in Arizona.



The size of the crater depends on the mass of the meteorite. It also depends on the speed at which it hits Earth.



When a meteorite hits Earth it produces a cloud of dust. This can cause the climate to change and even create an **earthquake!**



▲ A dust cloud can hide the sun.

What Happened to the Dinosaurs?

A large meteorite can change more than the landscape. It can also change life on Earth.

