

# A FEW HISTORIC ROCKS FROM SPACE

IT'S RARE FOR SPACE ROCKS TO HIT ANYTHING ON EARTH OTHER THAN THE GROUND OR WATER;  
TWO-THIRDS OF ALL METEORITES DROP INTO THE WATERS COVERING TWO-THIRDS OF OUR PLANET

- 2 BILLION YEARS AGO:** The world's **oldest and largest** recognizable **impact site** is at **Vredefort, South Africa**, where an **asteroid**, several miles wide formed a crater **186 miles in diameter**.
- 65 MILLION YEARS AGO:** A **mass extinction** killed off two-thirds to three-quarters of all plants and animals, including the **dinosaurs**, after an **asteroid** about six miles wide hit the Earth and formed the **100 mile-wide Chicxulub Crater in Mexico**.
- 861:** A shrine in **Nogata, Japan** preserves the world's **oldest** observed (May 19) **meteorite fall** (one pound).
- 1809:** Off the coast of **Rhode Island**, one meteorite out of a shower **hit the deck of a ship** on June 19.
- 1868:** The world's **largest** observed **meteorite fall** showered **100,000 meteorites** near **Pultusk, Poland**, January 30.
- 1908:** The **Tunguska Event** of June 30 involved an **asteroid or comet nucleus** exploding about five miles up in the atmosphere over **Siberia, Russia**; the shock wave **knocked down millions of trees** in the forest below.
- 1920:** The world's **heaviest meteorite find** was discovered by a farmer who ran over it in the soil while plowing a field on the **Hoba West Farm, Namibia, Africa**. The **Hoba iron meteorite weighs over 60 tons**.
- 1938:** A meteorite hit a cow in **Chicora, Pennsylvania**, on June 14.
- 1954:** The **only authenticated** instance of a **meteorite striking a person** occurred on November 30 in **Sylacauga, Alabama**, where a **woman was taking a nap on the couch** when an 8.5 pound rock broke a hole through the living room ceiling, bounced off a radio, and bruised her on the hip.
- 1969:** Pieces of a meteorite **hit the Sprucefield police station in Northern Ireland** on April 25.
- 1971 & 1982:** Two different meteorites hit **Wethersfield, Connecticut** only **11 years apart**.  
On April 8, 1971, a 12 ounce **meteorite smashed through the roof of a home** while the residents were asleep. The next morning they discovered a black rock **sticking out of their living room ceiling**.  
Then on November 8, 1982, a 6 pound **meteorite struck a different house**, less than 2 miles from the first house, broke a hole in the roof and the living room ceiling, bounced into the dining room where it ricocheted off the ceiling, knocked over a chair, and **landed under the dining room table**.
- 1984:** In **Claxton, Georgia**, a meteorite **hit a mailbox** on a post, knocking it to the ground on December 10.
- 1992:** A fireball videotaped breaking up in the night sky over **Pennsylvania**, on October 9, later dropped a **meteorite** which **made a hole through the trunk of a teenaged girl's car** parked at her house in **Peekskill, New York**.
- 1997:** On February 15, a meteorite **hit a pot on a stove** in **Shandong Province, China**.
- 2007:** What looked like an **iron meteorite**, on the outside, crashed into **the bathroom** of a New Jersey house, however, when its insides were tested at a laboratory, a few weeks later, this meteorite turned out to be a "meteor-wrong" of man-made steel; probably a piece of space junk that re-entered the atmosphere and fell to Earth just like a real meteorite would.