

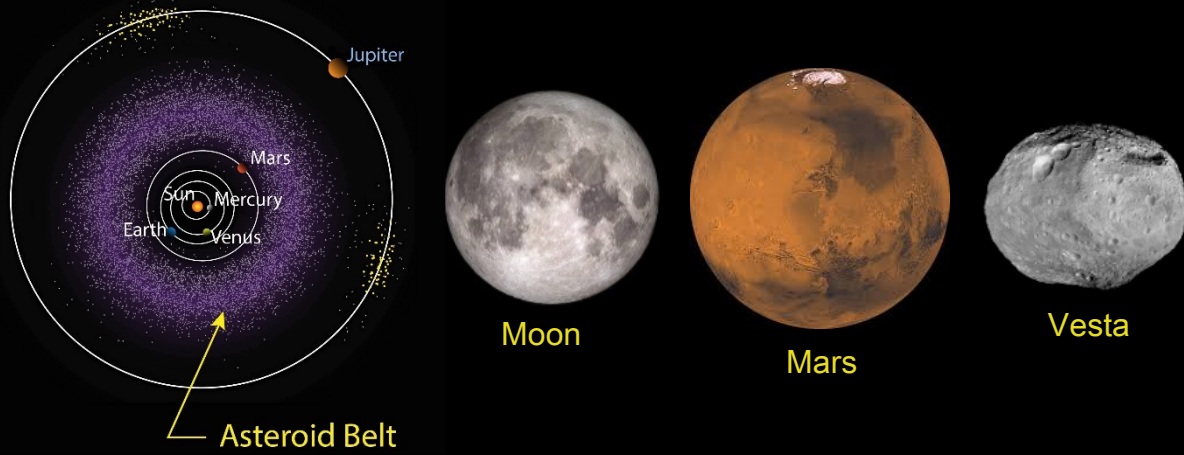


METEORITES

Rocks from Space!

Why study meteorites?

Meteorites are space rocks that fall to the Earth's surface. These space rocks can be left over material from the formation of the Solar System and/or material ejected from rocky solar system worlds. By studying meteorites, scientists can learn more about the history and evolution of our Solar System.



LEW 85320 in NASA's Meteorite Laboratory

Some meteorites can be identified as originating from the Moon, Mars, or Vesta. It is often challenging to identify the specific parent body (of the thousands of possibilities) or the specific celestial event associated with a meteorite sample.

Since 1978, Antarctic Search for Meteorites (ANSMET) Expeditions have sent teams of researchers to search for meteorites in Antarctica. The >22,000 collected meteorites are curated at the NASA Astromaterials Meteorite Laboratory at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.



TYPES OF METEORITES & METEORITE SAMPLES

STONY METEORITES

A. CHONDRITES:



Carbonaceous chondrite (ALH 81003)

B. ACHONDRITES:



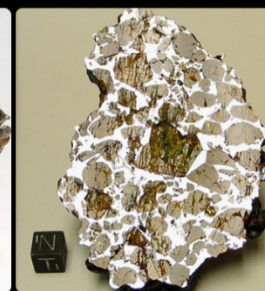
Howardite achondrite (ALH 09004)

STONY-IRON METEORITES

A. PALLASITES:



Sample CMS 04071(left) & slice of sample (right)



B. MESOSIDERITES:

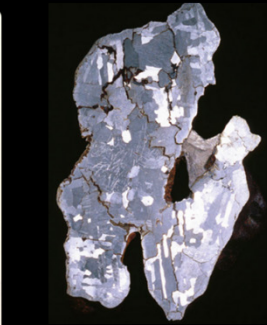


ALHA 77219 sawed surface

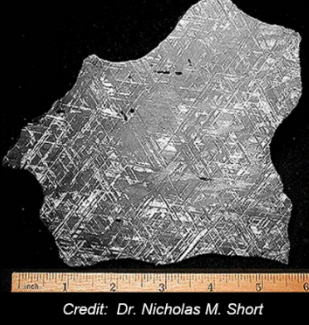
IRON METEORITES



Sample PGPA 77006

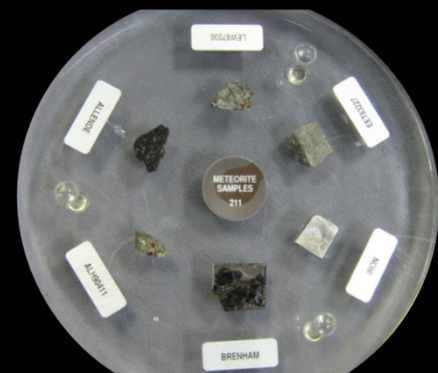


Sample QUE 99001 (sawed surface showing)



Credit: Dr. Nicholas M. Short
Widmanstätten pattern (Gibeon)

METEORITE SAMPLE DISK



Each Meteorite Sample Disk contains six meteorite samples.

