

Meteorite hits Russia, thousands injured

17th February, 2013



A meteorite exploded above central Russia on Friday morning. It was just like a scene from a science fiction movie. People watched the bright, swimming pool-sized rock fly across the

sky and then crash. It entered the Earth's atmosphere and looked like a giant shooting star. The power of the explosion damaged many buildings and smashed thousands of windows. The city of Chelyabinsk had no gas or Internet for a short time after the meteor shower came down. Thousands of people went to hospital for medical treatment. Many of them had cuts from flying glass. They did not know the shock wave from the explosion would be so dangerous and cause so much damage.

The Russian army found three giant holes in the earth where different parts of the meteorite hit the ground. One crater was six metres wide. The craters were 80 km apart. Investigators are checking the sites of where the meteorites came down to see if they are radioactive. The police have sealed off the areas to protect the public. Scientists working at the site said the meteor was mostly rock and iron. They said it is the largest meteorite to hit the Earth for over 100 years. NASA estimated that the meteor weighed around 7,000 tons and exploded with the power of 20 atomic bombs. Russian newspapers say that some people are now trying to sell rocks from the meteorite for \$15 each.

Sources: RT.com News / USA Today

Writing

We should spend more money on protecting the Earth from meteorites. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

meteorite / science fiction / atmosphere / shooting star / smashed windows / explosion / army / craters / investigators / radioactive / protect the public / atomic bombs / rocks

True / False

- A meteorite exploded after it hit Russia on Friday. T / F
- Many people in a swimming pool saw it fly across the sky. T / F
- A city in Russia was left without gas and Internet. T / F
- The shock wave from the explosion smashed thousands of windows. T / F
- Russia's army found six craters that were three metres wide. T / F
- The distance from some craters to others was up to 80km. T / F
- The meteorites were made of rock and lead. T / F
- People are trying to sell bits of the meteorite for \$15 a rock. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. exploded | a. came into |
| 2. bright | b. mainly |
| 3. entered | c. huge |
| 4. power | d. blew up |
| 5. treatment | e. closed |
| 6. giant | f. force |
| 7. crater | g. calculated |
| 8. sealed | h. shining |
| 9. mostly | i. hole |
| 10. estimated | j. care |

Discussion – Student A

- What springs to mind when you hear the word 'meteorite'?
- What do you know about meteorites?
- How scary is the idea of a meteorite hitting your town?
- Why didn't the government warn people about the meteorite?
- Did you see TV pictures of the meteorite? What did you think?
- What would you do if you saw a meteorite in the sky above you?
- Do you think meteorite contain dangerous things from space?
- Do you like movies about things from space hitting (or nearly hitting) the Earth?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. A meteorite exploded | a. radioactive |
| 2. just like a scene from a | b. and then crash |
| 3. fly across the sky | c. off the areas |
| 4. went to hospital for medical | d. in the earth |
| 5. shock | e. treatment |
| 6. three giant holes | f. above central Russia |
| 7. The craters were 80 km | g. wave |
| 8. see if they are | h. of 20 atomic bombs |
| 9. police have sealed | i. science fiction movie |
| 10. exploded with the power | j. apart |

Discussion – Student B

- What would world leaders do if a huge, meteorite was going to hit the Earth soon?
- What would it be like to investigate a meteorite crash site?
- Do you think meteorite could carry life from outer space?
- What is the most interesting thing about outer space?
- What will the Russian police do with the meteorite?
- What name would you give to the meteorite?
- Would you like to buy a piece of the meteorite? What would you do with it?
- What questions would you like to ask a meteorite expert?

Spelling

- A meteorite deeodplx
- ntlreca Russia
- Earth's astmehpeor
- smashed hudotassn of windows
- medical tnretmeta
- eusca so much damage
- three tigna holes
- The raetcrs were 80 km apart
- to see if they are edriavocati
- police have eealsd off the areas
- the meteor eewhigd around 7,000 tons
- atomic sobmb

Answers – Synonym Match

1. d	2. h	3. a	4. f	5. j
6. c	7. i	8. e	9. b	10. g

Role Play

Worried person - After the meteorite hit the Earth, you are worried about dangerous things from space. Tell the others three reasons why. You are worried that aliens will attack the Earth. You think we should make weapons to fight aliens and destroy meteorites. Tell the others that is important.

Normal person - You think the meteorite that hit the Earth was very interesting. Tell the others three reasons why. You think space is amazing. You hope there is alien life out there somewhere. You would love to meet an alien. You think worried person is wrong about everything.

Space scientist - You are very interested in space but do not think it is like science fiction. Tell the others three reasons why. There are no aliens. Meteorites will never destroy the Earth. You think the normal person isn't normal because (s)he wants to meet an alien. Worried person is crazy.

Alien - You are an alien living inside a human body. You have been on Earth for thousands of years. You come from a far way planet that was destroyed by a meteorite. You know a big meteorite will hit Earth soon. Tell worried person aliens are friendly and that millions of aliens want to come to Earth.

Speaking – Space Dangers

Which of these are worst? Rank them and share your rankings with your partner. Put the worst at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| • alien invasion | • ozone gets stronger |
| • space virus | • solar flare reaches Earth |
| • space junk | • Earth hit by gigantic asteroid |
| • space wars | • other _____ |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.