Quick Check

Meteors and Meteorites

Name _____ Date _____

Instructions: Read each question carefully and choose the best answer.

1. Which sentence best tells the main idea of this book?

Ⓐ Fireballs grow extremely bright when striking the atmosphere.

Ⓑ Meteors and meteorites are two kinds of objects in space that sometimes collide with Earth.

Ⓒ Meteoroids are rocks much smaller than comets and asteroids.

Ⓓ An ancient meteor shower brought gold to Earth.

2. Read this sentence: *Asteroids* ***orbit*** *the Sun.* Which of the following means the same as **orbit**?

Ⓐ revolve around

Ⓑ face

Ⓒ collide into

Ⓓ join

3. What type of book is *Meteors and Meteorites?*

Ⓐ realistic fiction

Ⓑ descriptive nonfiction

Ⓒ fantasy fiction

Ⓓ informational nonfiction

4. What is the author's main purpose for writing this book?

Ⓐ to inform

Ⓑ to persuade

Ⓒ to entertain and persuade

Ⓓ to inform and persuade

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5. Three of the following sentences are supporting details. Which sentence tells the main idea?

Ⓐ The impact threw huge amounts of dust, gas, and rock into the air.

Ⓑ At the same time the dinosaurs disappeared, the amount of iridium on the planet went up dramatically.

Ⓒ Some scientists say a meteorite changed Earth's climate 65 million years ago, killing almost everything.

Ⓓ Iridium is a metal that is rare on Earth but is common elsewhere in our solar system.

6. Which statement is an opinion?

Ⓐ Particles are tiny pieces of matter.

Ⓑ Stony meteorites are the most common type of meteorite.

Ⓒ Meteors create the most amazing show of light as they strike Earth's atmosphere.

Ⓓ The Asteroid Belt is between Mars and Jupiter.

7. Which of the following is not true about both meteors and meteorites?

Ⓐ They both light up the sky as they enter our atmosphere.

Ⓑ Meteors and meteorites come from far away in our solar system.

Ⓒ They both hit Earth's surface.

Ⓓ Meteors and meteorites create a natural fireworks show.

8. *Stony-iron, stony,* and *iron* are supporting details to which main idea?

Ⓐ Nearly all meteorites are stone.

Ⓑ If you find a stony-iron meteorite, you're lucky.

Ⓒ Iron meteorites come from the core of a long-vanished asteroid or planet.

Ⓓ Meteorites come in three main types.

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9. What causes meteors to glow in brilliant, fiery streaks of light?

Ⓐ They collide with our atmosphere, causing them to heat up and glow as they race across the sky.

Ⓑ They break apart and transform into a comet.

Ⓒ They race through the atmosphere at high speeds, shattering the sound barrier.

Ⓓ They are made up of gold nuggets and other precious metals.

10. *Comets* are to *ice* as _____ are to *stone*.

Ⓐ *craters*

Ⓑ *Kuiper Belts*

Ⓒ *constellations*

Ⓓ *meteorites*

11. Extended Response: Why do some scientists study meteors and meteorites?

12. Extended Response: What special skills do you need to have in order to be a scientist who studies meteors?

Quick Check Answer Sheet

Meteors and Meteorites

Main Comprehension Skill: Main Idea and Details

1. Ⓑ *Main Idea and Details*
2. Ⓐ *Vocabulary*
3. Ⓓ *Identify Genre*
4. Ⓐ *Author's Purpose*
5. Ⓒ *Main Idea and Details*
6. Ⓒ *Fact or Opinion*
7. Ⓑ *Compare and Contrast*
8. Ⓓ *Main Idea and Details*
9. Ⓐ *Cause and Effect*
10. Ⓓ *Vocabulary*
11. Answers will vary but should include conclusions drawn from the text, such as *by studying space rocks, scientists can figure out how our solar system formed,* and so on.
12. Answers will vary but should include conclusions drawn from the text such as *how to recover meteorites that land on Earth, learn about the origins of our solar system, learn how to conduct tests on meteorites, study fireballs and micrometeorites, learn how to research meteor showers and study their patterns, study what happened 650 million years after Earth formed, learn about different types of meteorites, work to prove the cause of the extinction of dinosaurs, study the chances of another large meteorite hitting a large city,* and so on.