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Activities

Shooting "Stars"

Name: _____ Date: _____

If shooting "stars" aren't really stars, what are they? You'll find out in this Planet Diary activity. You'll also take a close look at the Leonids, one of the most spectacular meteor showers.

Directions

- Go to NASA's Meteors Overview. Use the information to answer Workspace questions 1 and 2.
- Check out these cool videos of the Leonid meteor shower. View each animation and read its caption. Use the information to answer questions 3 though 6.
- The Leonids are one of several great meteor showers. See EarthSky's meteor shower guide to find out about others. Stardate Online has helpful viewing tips.

Workspace

1. What's the difference between meteoroids and meteors?

2. What's the difference between meteors and meteorites?

3. Why does the Leonid meteor shower get even more spectacular every 33 years?

4. Describe what happens as the comet nears the Sun.

5. When will Earth next pass through debris from Tempel-Tuttel?

6. Why do meteors in the debris trail move so fast relative to Earth's motion?

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