Rocks from space

There are many rocks in space, of different shapes and sizes. They are called meteorites and are rocks left over from when the planets formed. Sometimes, meteorites crash down to earth.

Impact crater
This huge crater in Arizona, USA, was formed when a gigantic meteorite smashed into earth. It is over a kilometre across – more than the length of 14 jumbo jets.

Explosive rock
When large meteorites hit the ground, they explode. The heat from the explosion melts the rocks around them making glassy stones called tektites.

Hot metal
Most meteorites are made of metal, like this one. As they rush through the sky, they become extremely hot and can be seen as trails of light.

crater – a hole in the ground made by a meteorite or a volcanic explosion.
explode – to blow up, usually with a loud bang