


Meteorite Characteristics

Meteorites have very specific characteristics that distinguish them from rocks on Earth.

Meteorite	Meteor-wrong
 <p>Dark on the outside A meteorite can have a “burnt” dark fusion crust on the outside.</p>	<p>You will not see shiny quartz or other bright crystals in a meteorite.</p>
<p>HEAVY! Many meteorites have iron or nickel in them, so they are heavier (and denser) than Earth rocks.</p>	
<p>Smooth, with finger pokes Some meteorites have pits (regmaglypts) on the outside, which look like deep thumbprints.</p>	 <p>Meteorites are not bubbly, and do not have holes. Meteorites are usually not round.</p>
 <p>Shiny inside Some meteorites are mostly iron and look like shiny metal inside. Others have flecks of shiny metal inside.</p>	<p>If you can make a colored streak of black or red on a streak plate, probably is not a meteorite, unless it is very weathered.</p>
<p>Magnetic Many meteorites have iron or nickel in them and will attract a magnet.</p>	<p>Some Earth rocks are magnetic too.</p>
<p>Little stony balls inside Many meteorites have small (mm-wide) balls of stony material (chondrules) inside.</p>	