



Australian Man Mistakenly Discovers Solar System Fragment

Description

David Hole spends his weekends in Maryborough, a small town northwest of Melbourne, metal detecting in a regional park. This area was central to Victoria's 19th-century gold rush, where many men previously found gold nuggets. In May 2015, Hole's metal detector indicated a strong signal.

Excited, Hole dug into the clay and unearthed a large rock, about the size of a shoebox. It felt unusually heavy and had a textured surface, suggesting something extraordinary inside. Confident it contained a gold nugget, he attempted various methods to open it, including using a rock saw and an angle grinder, but was unsuccessful. Even a sledgehammer could not break it. The rock's toughness hinted that it might not be ordinary.

After years of curiosity, Hole took the rock to the geology department at Melbourne Museum in 2018. Dermot Henry, the head of sciences at Museums Victoria, noted that most rocks brought in are often common stones. However, this specimen was different.

The rock displayed characteristics, called regmaglypts, that formed when an object enters Earth's atmosphere at high speed. Weighing 17 kilograms, it was later identified as the first meteorite found in Victoria since 1995. Inside, researchers discovered chondrules—small mineral droplets formed in the early solar system—confirming the rock as a chondrite, a type of meteorite.

The Maryborough meteorite is now part of Museums Victoria's State Collection, where it can be viewed by the public. Henry stated that meteorites offer valuable insights into the origins of our solar system.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Meteorite** /'mi:tə.ɔɪt/ (noun): A rock from space that lands on Earth.
2. **Excited** /ɪk'saɪ.tɪd/ (adjective): Feeling very happy and enthusiastic.
3. **Treasure** /'treɪ.ə/ (noun): Valuable things like gold or jewels.
4. **Nugget** /'nʌɡ.ɪt/ (noun): A small piece of gold or other metal.
5. **Detecting** /dɪ'tektɪŋ/ (verb): Finding something hidden using special tools.
6. **Rock** /rɒk/ (noun): A solid piece of mineral material.

Comprehension Questions



Multiple Choice

1. What activity does David Hole participate in during weekends?
 - Option: Fishing
 - Option: Metal detecting
 - Option: Camping
 - Option: Hiking

2. What did Hole's metal detector indicate in May 2015?
 - Option: A weak signal
 - Option: A strong signal
 - Option: No signal
 - Option: A faint beep

3. How heavy was the rock that Hole unearthed?
 - Option: 10 kilograms
 - Option: 15 kilograms
 - Option: 17 kilograms
 - Option: 20 kilograms

4. What is the main characteristic of the rock that suggested it was extraordinary?
 - Option: Its color
 - Option: Its texture
 - Option: Its smell
 - Option: Its size

5. Which museum did Hole take the rock to?
 - Option: Queensland Museum
 - Option: Melbourne Museum
 - Option: Victoria and Albert Museum
 - Option: Australian Museum

6. What was the rock later identified as?
 - Option: A piece of gold
 - Option: A common stone
 - Option: A meteorite
 - Option: A chondrite



True-False

7. David Hole found the rock containing a gold nugget.
8. The rock was successfully opened using a sledgehammer.
9. The rock Hole found weighed 17 kilograms.
10. The meteorite found by Hole is now part of Museums Victoria's State Collection.
11. Regmaglypts are characteristics of common stones.
12. Dermot Henry is the head of sciences at Museums Victoria.

Gap-Fill

13. David Hole spends his weekends in _____, northwest of Melbourne.
14. Hole's metal detector signaled a strong signal in _____.
15. Inside the rock, researchers discovered _____, confirming the rock as a chondrite.
16. The rock displayed characteristics called _____ that formed when an object enters the atmosphere.
17. The Maryborough meteorite is the first meteorite found in Victoria since _____.
18. Meteorites offer valuable insights into the origins of our _____.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Metal detecting 2. A strong signal 3. 17 kilograms 4. Its texture 5. Melbourne Museum
6. A meteorite

True-False: 7. False 8. False 9. True 10. True 11. False 12. True

Gap-Fill: 13. Maryborough 14. May 2015 15. chondrules 16. regmaglypts 17. 1995 18. solar system



Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. What is the primary function of chlorophyll in plants?
Option: Photosynthesis
Option: Respiration
Option: Nutrient absorption
Option: Water storage
2. What is the primary role of astronauts in a space mission?
Option: Drive the rocket
Option: Conduct research and experiments
Option: Develop software
Option: Build spacecraft
3. What is a meteorite?
Option: A glowing comet
Option: A space rock that lands on Earth
Option: An asteroid belt
Option: A satellite
4. What does high-resolution typically refer to in imaging?
Option: Low-quality images
Option: Detailed and clear images
Option: Black and white images
Option: Blurry images
5. Which term describes modern humans and their closest extinct relatives?
Option: Primate
Option: Hominin
Option: Anatomically modern human
Option: Neanderthal
6. Fossils provide evidence of what?
Option: Climate change
Option: Ancient life forms
Option: Soil composition
Option: Water sources
7. In archaeology what does reconstruction typically involve?



- Option: Building new structures
- Option: Restoring ancient artifacts
- Option: Creating a visual model of past events
- Option: Excavating new sites

8. What is the primary purpose of the Voyager spacecraft?

- Option: To study Mars
- Option: To explore the outer Solar System
- Option: To orbit Earth
- Option: To land on the Moon

9. What is a critical phase in a space mission that involves returning to Earth?

- Option: Liftoff
- Option: Launch
- Option: Landing
- Option: Docking

10. What is the primary goal of detecting in scientific research?

- Option: Identifying unknown variables
- Option: Acquiring data
- Option: Measuring distances
- Option: Collecting samples

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Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. In a criminal case _____ are responsible for presenting the case against the defendant.
12. A _____ is commonly used in construction sites to dig trenches and move soil.
13. A _____ orbits the Earth and collects various types of data for weather forecasting.
14. The _____ holds and protects the brain within the skull.
15. The students were _____ when they learned about their upcoming field trip to the space center.
16. The gold _____ found in the stream was worth a small fortune.



17. The space _____ aimed to explore the possibility of life on other planets.
18. Once the satellite was _____ it began transmitting data back to Earth.
19. In a scientific experiment _____ are used as benchmarks to compare with experimental results.
20. The geologist examined the _____ to determine its age and composition.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. The skull protects the brain and supports the structures of the face.
22. Plants use chlorophyll to absorb light energy for photosynthesis.
23. High-resolution images allow scientists to study details that are not visible in standard images.
24. The crew of the spacecraft will conduct research during their time in orbit.
25. The study of hominin fossils provides insight into human evolution.
26. Fossils can reveal information about ancient environments and life forms.
27. After the excavation the artifacts were carefully reburied to preserve their condition.
28. The mission to Mars aims to find signs of past life on the planet.
29. Detecting faint signals from space is crucial for astronomy research.
30. The landing of the spacecraft was successful marking a milestone in the mission.

Answer

- Multiple Choice:** 1. Photosynthesis 2. Conduct research and experiments 3. A space rock that lands on Earth 4. Detailed and clear images 5. Hominin 6. Ancient life forms 7. Creating a visual model of past events 8. To explore the outer Solar System 9. Landing 10. Acquiring data
- Gap-Fill:** 11. prosecutors 12. backhoe 13. satellite 14. braincase 15. excited 16. nugget 17. mission 18. operational 19. control samples 20. rock
- Matching sentence:** 1. skull 2. chlorophyll 3. high-resolution 4. crew 5. hominin 6. fossils 7. reburied 8. mission 9. detecting 10. landing



CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL4

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1. Australian Man
2. B2
3. ESL learning
4. esl news
5. Found Gold
6. L4
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