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Follow the latest daily buzz with [buzzFeed Daily Newsletter!](#) Photo [Rakicevic Nenad \(Pexels\)](#)Two meteor showers - Delta Aquarids and Alpha Capricorns - both reach their peak tonight and Tuesday morning. And with the moon, which will be only 6%, dark skies can be the perfect stage for a pretty meteoric show. None of these downpours in itself is particularly strong; The Aquarid Delta is more visible in the southern hemisphere and Alpha Capricorns produces only up to five meteors per hour. But the two showers peak on the same night together, combined with the dark sky, bode well for good views. Together, showers can produce 20-25 meteors per hour. If December's few meteor showers left you craving more, you're in luck! Today the peak Read moreThe Perseids shower is also currently active and is usually the most popular summer meteor shower in the Northern Hemisphere. This year, however, it peaks on August 12-13, just when the moon is almost full and illuminates the sky. The Perseids could add a little more to the show today, however. Meteor showers are best seen between midnight and dawn. You don't need any special equipment; Just find a place with an open air and little or no light pollution. Recline or lie back so you can see the wide view of the sky, allow your eyes to adjust to the darkness and wait for the show. For more from Lifehacker, be sure to follow us on Instagram [@lifehackerdotcom](#). People often see flesh in the night sky and wonder what it is. Skygazers regularly observe these dashes of light, called meteors, both at night and during the day (if they are bright enough or can be tracked by amateur radios). Meteors are made of small pieces of rock or dust (called meteoroids) dash through our atmosphere and evaporate. When they enter the Earth's atmosphere in flocks, they are part of meteor showers. They occur throughout the year and can be observed quite easily from backyard or dark sky sites. A band of Leonid Meteor seen by an observer at the Grand Millimeter Atacama Massif in Chile. European Southern Observatory/K. Malin. More than two dozen times a year, the Earth sinks through a stream of debris left in space by an orbiting comet (or less frequently, the collapse of an asteroid). When this happens, we see swarms of meteors flashing in the sky. They seem to come from the same area of the sky called radiant. These events are called meteor showers, and sometimes they can produce tens or hundreds of bands of light per hour. Want to check out some of the most famous meteor showers? Here's a list of other storms throughout the year. Quadrantids: They start in late December and peak in early January. The stream through which the Earth passes creates quadrantids, consists of tiny particles from the collapse of the asteroid EH1. If the conditions are very good, can see more than 100 meteors per hour. They seem to flow out of Boetes. Lyrids: Mid-to-late April showers and they usually peak around the 22nd. Observers are likely to see 1-2 dozen meteors per hour. Its meteors seem to come from the constellation Lyra.Eta Aquarids: this shower starts around April 20 and lasts until the end of May. The largest number of meteors occurs around the early morning of May 5. Eta Aquarids come from a stream left by comet 1P/Halley. Skygazers can see about 60 meteors per hour. These meteors radiate from the constellation Aquarius. Its radiance is in the constellation Perseus. Showers start around mid-July and last until the end of August. The peak is usually around August 12, when meteor hunters can see up to 100 meteors per hour. This shower stream left by comet 109P/Swift-Tuttle.Orionids: This shower begins on October 2 and lasts into the first week of November. The peak is reached around October 21. The radiance of this soul is the constellation of Orion. Leonids: Another known meteor shower, it is created by the wreckage of comet 55P/Tempel-Tuttle. Start looking, starting around November 15 to 20, with a peak on November 18. I think it's from the constellation Leo. Geminids: This shower starts around December 7, radiates from Gemini, and lasts about a week. If conditions are very good, observers can see about 120 meteors per hour. Perseida meteor over the Very Large Telescope in Chile. ESO / Stefan Guisard The best way to watch meteor showers? Get ready for the cold weather! Even if observers live in a warm climate, it can get cold at night and early in the morning. Get out early in the morning on peak dates. Dress warmly, bring something to eat or drink. Also, bring your favorite astronomy app or star chart to help explore the sky between meteor flares. Observers can study constellations, find planets and more in anticipation of another brilliant flash in the sky. Favorite skygazing tip: wrap in a blanket or sleeping bag, settle in your favorite lawn chair, lie back, and count meteors! Perseida meteor over the Very Large Telescope in Chile. ESO/Stefan Guisard Why do bits of space debris seem to burn out before our eyes? This phenomenon is the result of the travel they make through our atmosphere. As they travel through the gases that covered the Earth, the meteoroids heat up. There is friction between the atmosphere and the meteoroids, which generates heat. Once the heat is high enough, the meteoroid evaporates or disintegrates (if it is large enough). This is usually enough to destroy it before something reaches the Earth's surface. Meteoroids are constantly bombarding our atmosphere; if someone gets to the ground, it's known as a meteorite. The Earth encounters many pieces of natural debris in space, as there is a lot of it floating around. If we try through a particularly thick dust from a comet (and comets release dust as they are near the Sun) or an asteroid that has an orbit close to ours, we experience an increase in the number of meteors over several nights. It's called a meteor shower. Comet Enke (bright object in the center) and its meteoroid flow (red glow extending from left to top). When the Earth passes through this stream, we could see the meteor shower of southern Taurida, visible in early November (radiating from the constellation Taurus). NASA/Spitzer Space Telescope Experienced starships are familiar with meteors. They can fall at any time of the day or night, but these bright flashes of light are much easier to see in dim light or darkness. Although they are often referred to as falling or shooting stars, these pieces of fire rock have nothing to do with the stars. Meteors flash light when bits of space rock speed through our atmosphere and flames erupt. Meteors can be created by comets and asteroids, but they are not comets or asteroids in themselves. Meteorite is a space rock that survives after traveling through the atmosphere and lands on the surface of the planet. Meteors can be detected by the sounds they make when they pass through the atmosphere. Technically, meteors are flashes of light that occur when a small bit of space debris is called speed through the Earth's atmosphere. Meteors can only be the size of grains of sand or peas, although some are small pebbles. The largest can be giant boulders the size of a mountain. Most, however, result in tiny pieces of space rock that occur to get lost throughout the Earth during its orbit. Looking for an incoming meteor to descend through earth's atmosphere as seen from the International Space Station. NASA When meteors mint through a layer of air surrounding the Earth, friction caused by the gas molecules that make up our planet's atmosphere heats them up, and the meteor's surface begins to heat up and glow. Eventually, heat and high speed combine to evaporate a meteor usually high above the Earth's surface. Large pieces of debris disintegrate, showering many pieces down the sky. Most of them evaporate, too. When this happens, observers can see different colors in the flash surrounding the meteor. The colors are caused by gases in the atmosphere heated along with the meteor, as well as from the materials inside the debris itself. Some larger figures create very large flashes in the sky, and they are often called bolides. Large meteors that survive on a journey through the atmosphere and land on the Earth's surface, or in bodies of water, are known as meteorites. Meteorites are often very dark, smooth rocks, usually containing iron or a combination of stone and iron. Many pieces of space rock that make it to the ground and are found by meteorite hunters are quite small and are unable to do much damage. Only large meteoroids will create a crater when they land. They also smoke hot - another common common Meteorite hunters. NASA's Johnson Space Center piece of space rock, which made the Meteor Crater in Arizona, was about 160 feet (50 meters) across. The Chelyabinsk drummer, who landed in Russia in 2013, was about 66 feet (20 meters) long and caused shock waves that shattered windows at a great distance. Today, such large impacts are relatively rare on Earth, but billions of years ago, when the Earth was formed, our planet was bombarded by incoming space rocks of all sizes. A fireball created as a superbolide erupted over Chelyabinsk on February 15, 2013. It was filmed with a dashboard camera. Wikimedia Commons. CC-BY. One of the largest and most recent impact events occurred nearly 65,000 years ago when a piece of space rock about 6 to 9 miles (10 to 15 kilometers) across the Earth's surface near the Mexican Yucatan Peninsula today. The region is called Chicxulub (pronounced Cheesh-uh-toob) and was not discovered until the 1970s. The impact, which may have actually been caused by several incoming rocks, had a dramatic impact on Earth, including earthquakes, tidal waves, and sudden and prolonged climate change caused by debris hanging in the atmosphere. The Chicxulub drummer dug up a crater about 93 miles (150 km) in diameter and is widely associated with a huge extinction of life that probably included most dinosaur species. Fortunately, this kind of meteoroid impact is quite rare on our planet. They still occur in other worlds of the solar system. From these events, planetary scientists get a good idea of how cratering works on solid rock and icy surfaces, as well as in the upper layers of atmospheres of gas and ice planets. Although they may be the sources of meteors, asteroids are not meteors. They are separate, small bodies in the solar system. Asteroids supply meteor material through collisions that scatter pieces of their rock throughout the space. Comets can also generate meteors by spreading traces of rock and dust when they orbit the Sun. When the Earth's orbit crosses the orbits of comet paths or asteroid debris, these fragments of space material can be noticed. That's when they begin a fiery journey through our atmosphere, evaporates as they go. If something survives to reach the earth, that's when they become meteorites. Asteroid Vesta has placed several meteorites that have landed on Earth. NASA/JPL-Caltech/UCLA/MPS/DLR/IDA There are a number of chances for Earth to plough traces of debris left by the decay of asteroids and comet orbits. When the Earth collides with the trail of space debris, the resulting meteor events are called meteor showers. They can bring anywhere from a few dozen meteors in the sky per hour each night to nearly a hundred. It all depends on how thick the trail is and how many meteoroids will make the last our atmosphere. A sample of what the meteor shower provides in the night sky. Orionid meteors seem to emit from the constellation In fact, these are pieces of dust from the comet that evaporate in the upper atmosphere of the Earth. Carolyn Collins Petersen Petersen

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