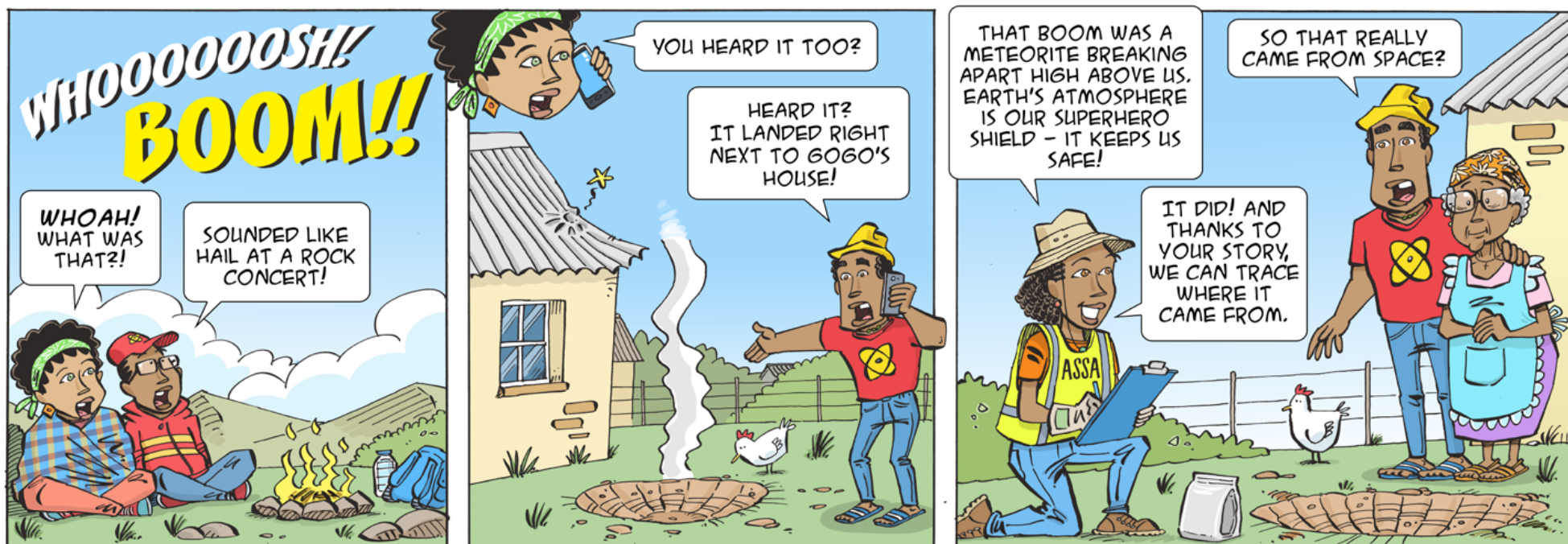


SCIENCE SPAZA

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NQWEBA THE SKYFALLER



METEOR SHOWER ADVENTURE

IN LATE APRIL EVERY YEAR, THE **LYRIDS METEOR SHOWER** WILL LIGHT UP THE SKY! THE METEORS ARE KNOWN FOR THEIR BRIGHTNESS. LOOK FOR THE **CONSTELLATION LYRA** NEAR THE BRIGHT STAR **VEGA**.

HOW TO WATCH SAFELY:

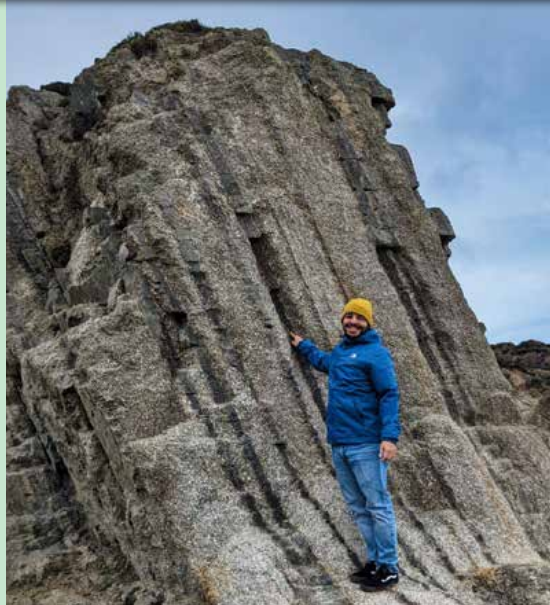
- 1** GO TO A SAFE, OPEN SPOT WITH AN ADULT.
- 2** LOOK NORTHWARDS AND COUNT THE METEORS YOU SEE.
- 3** KEEP A LOG OF HOW MANY AND WHEN YOU SAW THEM.
- 4** STAY TOGETHER - DON'T WANDER AROUND IN THE DARK!



AFRICA'S METEORITE STORY

- SOUTH AFRICA IS HOME TO THE **VREDEFORT DOME**, THE WORLD'S OLDEST AND LARGEST METEORITE IMPACT SITE. THE FORCE OF THE IMPACT PUSHED LAYERS OF ROCK CONTAINING **GOLD** FROM DEEP UNDERGROUND CLOSER TO THE SURFACE, WHICH IS WHY THE WITWATERSRAND IS SO RICH IN GOLD TODAY.
- ON THE 25TH AUGUST 2024, PEOPLE IN EASTERN CAPE **NQWEBA** WITNESSED THE FALL OF A METEORITE.
- SOME METEORITES FOUND IN SOUTH AFRICA LIKE THE **BENONI** METEORITE AND THE **LICHTENBURG** METEORITE ARE KEPT IN MUSEUMS AND UNIVERSITIES FOR SCIENTISTS TO STUDY.
- EGYPT'S KING **TUTANKHAMUN** LOVED METEORITES! HIS BREASTPLATE HAS A GREEN **SCARAB** MADE FROM LIBYAN DESERT GLASS SAND MELTED BY A METEORITE 28 MILLION YEARS AGO AND HIS DAGGER WAS MADE OF **METEORITE IRON** THAT NEVER RUSTED.
- TO DATE, SCIENTISTS HAVE DISCOVERED MORE THAN **55** METEORITES IN SOUTH AFRICA.

MEET A GEOLOGIST: DR LEO VONOPARTIS



DR LEO VONOPARTIS is an economic geologist who studies how the Earth – and even outer space – makes spellbinding rocks and minerals! He's worked on everything from meteorites to critical metals that power green technologies.

After studying at Wits University and James Cook University, Dr Leo returned to Wits as a lecturer and researcher.

CURRICULUM LINKS

- **Natural Sciences Grade 8:**
- Meteors (The Solar System)
- **Natural Sciences Grade 9:**
- Types of rocks on the Earth (Geology, The Lithosphere)
- **Life Sciences Grade 10:**
- Mass extinction due to a meteorite impact (History of Life on Earth)
- **Geography Grade 11:**
- Land Formations (Rocks and landforms)

He's currently studying the Nqweba meteorite, which landed in the Eastern Cape in 2024.

Through his work, Dr Leo helps us understand how our planet formed and how we can mine the earth for useful materials in a responsible manner.

ROCK MY WORDS

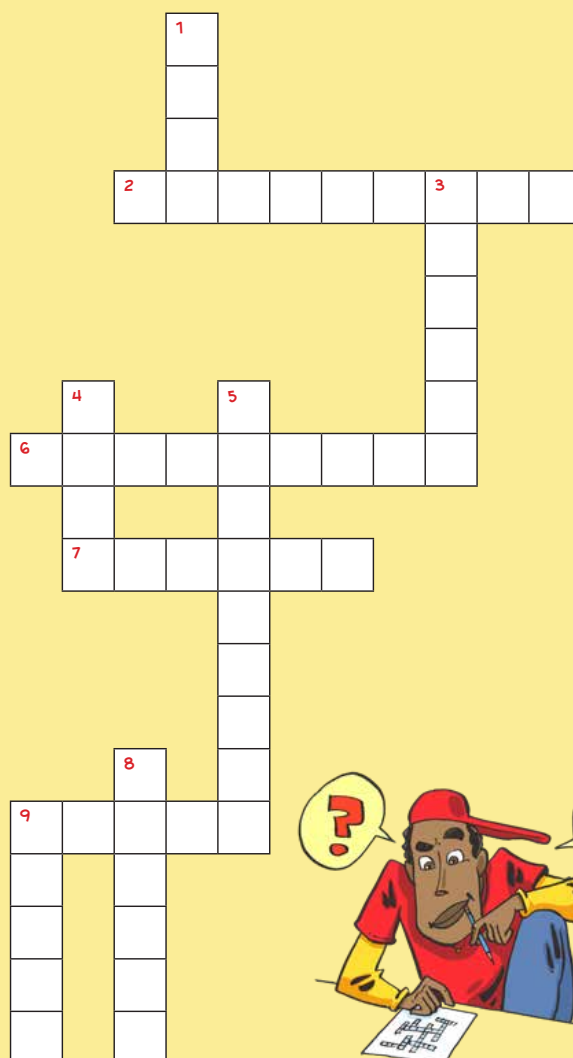
THEY'VE TRAVELLED THROUGH SPACE, SLAMMED INTO EARTH, AND EVEN SHAPED OUR PLANET'S HISTORY. HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT METEORITES? FIND OUT IN THIS CROSSWORD!

Across

- A scientist who studies rocks and Earth.
- The oldest and biggest meteorite impact site in the world, found in South Africa.
- Eastern Cape town where a meteorite landed in August 2024.
- Where meteorites come from.

Down

- The special shape left behind at the Vredefort impact site.
- What happens when a meteorite crashes into Earth.
- A metal sometimes found inside meteorites.
- A rock from space that lands on Earth.
- A tool that can help detect metal in rocks.
- The system of the Sun and its planets.



WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!

LET US KNOW IF YOU SEE **METEORITES** – OR ANY OTHER EXCITING THINGS IN THE NIGHT SKY. WE'LL PUBLISH YOUR RESPONSES ON OUR SOCIALS.



COMMUNICATE YOUR SCIENCE

Are you a researcher who wants to share important information with tomorrow's future leaders?

Get in touch!

Visit www.sciencespaza.org,
email info@sciencespaza.org,
SMS or WhatsApp us on 076 173 7130.



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