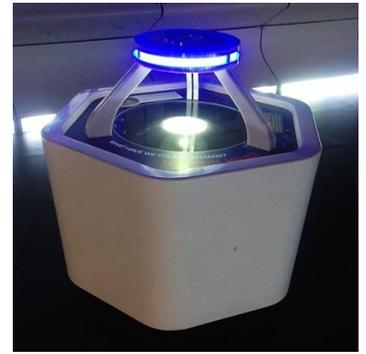


Meteorite Mirage



Location

First floor, Space gallery exhibition

In a nutshell

Have a look at a mirage of 'Block Island' a meteorite that lies on the surface of Mars.

What to do

Students can look at and try to touch the rotating image of the meteorite. Can students identify how the real meteorite compares to the image in size and weight?

Time Required

KS1 & KS2 2 minutes per student.

What's happening?

The actual Block Island is 60cm in length and would weigh close to half a tonne. It is still on the surface of Mars. It was discovered by NASA's Mars Exploration Rover Opportunity in 2009. Most meteorites break up when hitting the ground because today's martian atmosphere is not dense enough to slow them down enough. A meteorite is a piece of a comet, asteroid or meteoroid than has passed through a planet's atmosphere without being burned up and landed on its surface. Scientists say this meteorite could have landed on Mars intact only if it had two things: a very specific entry point into the atmosphere and a very shallow flight path. That would slow it down enough to keep it from breaking apart upon landing. The Mars Exploration Rover Opportunity determined the composition of the meteorite using spectroscopy; this is the study of the interaction between matter and electromagnetic radiation.

Curriculum links

KS1/2	<p>Science- Animals, including humans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (Yr 2) find out about and describe the basic needs of animals, including humans, for survival (water, food and air) <p>English - Spoken language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ask relevant questions to extend their understanding and knowledge - give well-structured descriptions, explanations and narratives for different purposes, including for expressing feelings <p>English - Reading – word reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (Yr1) apply phonic knowledge and skills as the route to decode words - (Yr2) continue to apply phonic knowledge and skills as the route to decode words until automatic decoding has become embedded and reading is fluent - (Yr 3-6) apply their growing knowledge of root words, prefixes and suffixes (etymology and morphology) as listed in English Appendix 1, both to read aloud and to understand the meaning of new words they meet <p>English - Reading – comprehension</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (Yr1) discussing word meanings, linking new meanings to those already known - (Yr2) discussing and clarifying the meanings of words, linking new meanings to known vocabulary <p>Mathematics - Measurement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (Yr1) compare, describe and solve practical problems for: lengths and heights, mass/weight
--------------	--

Relates to:

Workshops & Theme Days	Shows	Trails	Other exhibits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destination space (KS1 & KS2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch it! (KS2) • Invaders of Mars! (Planetarium, All ages) • We are aliens! (Planetarium, All ages) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spectra • Space invaders • View of Earth

