S1 - 08. ARIZONA, LAND OF METEORS

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Between Mars and Jupiter, asteroids are in orbit quite peacefully, far away from Earth. But sometimes, these huge chunks of rock and metal leave their regular path to come dangerously close to our planet. Some 50 000 years ago, an asteroid crashed to the ground in the heart of the Arizona desert. The impact caused a geological cataclysm - the famous Meteor Crater.
Each year, thousands of tons of extraterrestrial material hit the earth - meteorites of all shapes and sizes that are just fragments and dust of much larger asteroids. Most of the time, these rocks from the sky go unnoticed, but to avoid future disasters, the 700 000 asteroids identified to date are constantly monitored... just in case they felt like coming for a visit to our planet!. Near Tucson, in a setting reminiscent of an old Western, Serge Brunier meets with meteorite hunters - collectors or scientists. They roam the desert with great enthusiasm in search of precious rocks, because each of these asteroid fragments tells a chapter of the history of our solar system. Some even believe that meteorites brought to Earth the first bricks of life.
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Categorie(s): Discovery & Nature, Science & Environment, Collections - Series

Tag(s): Discovery/Adventure, Space, Astronomy

Producer(s): POINT DU JOUR

Coproducer(s): ARTE France, UNIVERSCIENCE, CNES, Observatoire de Paris

Length: 1x26 / Format: One-off

Original version: French

Versions available: International

Nationality: France, 2013

Rights: all media, worldwide

Support(s): HD Cam, HD file

http://www.pointdujour-international.com/catalogueFiche.php?idFiche=38237&lang=en