

TEKTITES - It's Local Space Glass!!

Kid Friendly explanation by Kendra



How tektites are formed:

First you need a **GIANT** asteroid - at least 2x the size of your entire school (including both baseball fields) - to come crashing into the earth!!



It's flying through the air so fast that when it crashes into the earth - it creates so much energy and force that as it hits - instead of breaking into rocks - it causes a giant explosion turning itself into crazy hot liquid - and "splashes" back into space!

(Imagine bouncing a tennis ball into a puddle - except the ball doesn't explode.)

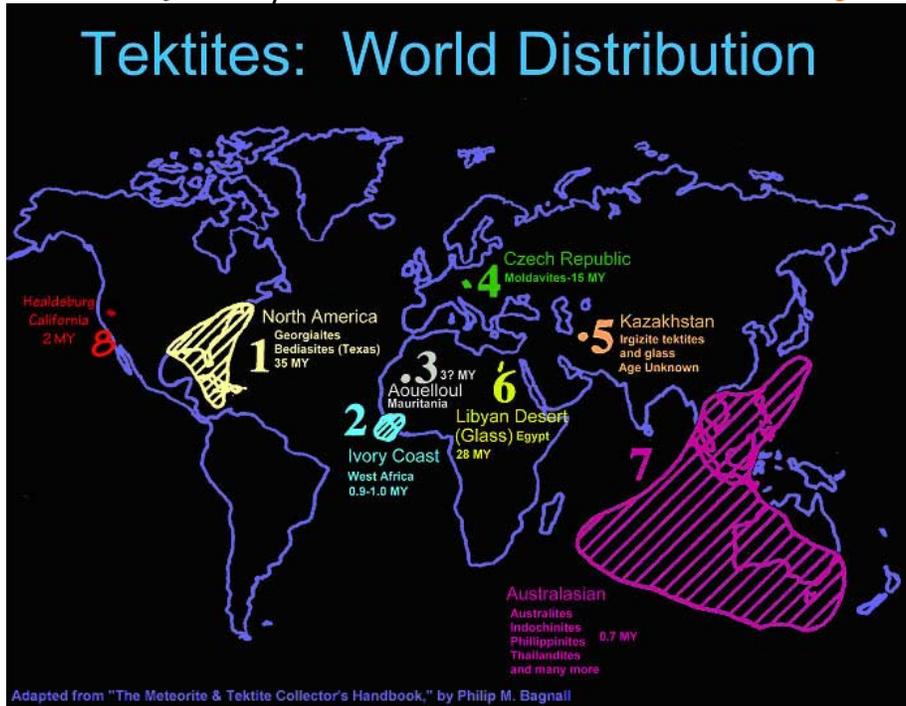
So now we have BILLIONS of super hot "liquid asteroid" drops splashing up into the air. The force of the impact is SO GREAT that it splashes back through the atmosphere and into SPACE, traveling around 15 MILES PER SECOND!!

(That's like going from school to Scandia in one second!)

When the **HOT LIQUID** balls reach space it's now **SUPER COLD** (-454 degrees Fahrenheit), and the "liquid asteroid" drops harden and become Tektites (glass-like balls). The Tektites then fall back to earth like "rain" making a "path" called a Strewnfield.



There are only 7 known places where Tektites are found in the world.
 And recently an 8th place has been discovered - in *Healdsburg, CA!!*



Our local Tektites look like black obsidian balls with lots of craters and pits. Most are the size of an almond, the largest local Tektite found is the size of a golf ball. The best time to hunt for our local Tektites is on a sunny day after it has recently rained. They will look blacker than black - and sometimes, you're able to shine a light through them.



Santa Rosa Mineral & Gem Society

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