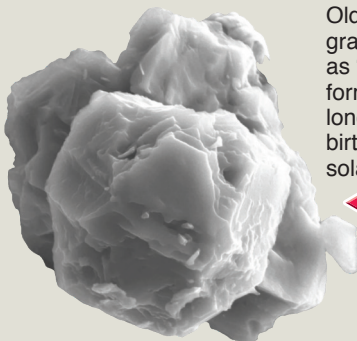


Meteorite contains oldest material on Earth

Scientists have discovered the oldest known solid material on Earth in a meteorite which landed in Australia in the 1960s. The tiny specks of stardust predate our sun by up to three billion years

► **Murchison meteorite:** New analysis of dust grains within space rock shows that some are as much as 7.5 billion years old



Oldest dust grains known as “pre-solar” – formed in stars long before birth of our solar system

◀ *Scanning electron micrograph of pre-solar grain*



AUSTRALIA

Murchison, Victoria
Meteorite landed in 1969

8 micrometres (0.008mm)

COSMIC TIMELINE (*billions of years ago*)

