What's the difference between an asteroid and a meteorite?

An **asteroid** is sometimes called a minor planet or planetoid. They are small Solar System bodies in orbit around the Sun. There are tens of thousands of them grouped in the main asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter. They are smaller than planets but larger than meteoroids, meaning that an asteroid can range from a few meters wide to hundreds of km wide. The term "asteroid" has historically been applied primarily to bodies in the inner Solar System since the outer Solar System was poorly known when the term came into common usage. In general, they are rocky bodies that do not have an atmosphere, although some have a high metallic content. A few have their own moons.

A **meteorite** is any object that has entered the atmosphere of another object and survived to impact the surface. Another way to explain a meteorite is to say that they started out as little chunks of rock and debris in space called meteoroids. They become meteors when they fall through a planet's atmosphere; leaving a bright trail as they are heated to incandescence by the friction of the atmosphere (shooting stars). Pieces that survive the journey and hit the ground are called meteorites. Occasionally, an object large enough to be considered an asteroid will enter an atmosphere. Its remnants are also called meteorites if they impact the surface.

Read more at http://www.universetoday.com/36398/what-is-the-difference-between-asteroids-and-meteorites/#ixzz2L0ZzDP5c