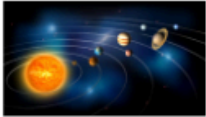


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Crash Course Astronomy #20: Asteroids

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1. The discovery of Ceres in 1801 led astronomers to realize that a new class of solar system objects, later called _____, had been found.
2. The term "asteroid" literally means _____.
3. Most asteroids are found in the region between Mars and Jupiter known as the _____.
4. A region with very few asteroids in the Main Belt due to Jupiter's gravity is called the _____.
5. Asteroids with similar orbits that may have come from a common parent body are called _____.
6. Despite their numbers, asteroids in the Main Belt are so spread out that the region is mostly _____.
7. The largest asteroid in the Main Belt is _____, measuring about 900 km across.
8. Ceres is believed to have a rocky core and a mantle made of _____.
9. Vesta, a large asteroid, has a southern hemisphere heavily damaged by _____.
10. Some asteroids consist of loosely bound rocks held together by gravity, forming a structure called a _____.
11. The Japanese spacecraft Hayabusa revealed that the asteroid Itokawa was a _____ of rocks and debris.
12. Asteroids with orbits that cross Mars's orbit are known as _____ asteroids.
13. Asteroids that cross Earth's orbit and can get close to our planet are called _____ asteroids.
14. Asteroids found at Lagrange points 60° ahead or behind a planet's orbit are known as _____ asteroids.
15. Some asteroids share Earth's orbit in a stable but separate path and are referred to as _____ asteroids.

Crash Course Astronomy #20: Asteroids KEY

1. The discovery of Ceres in 1801 led astronomers to realize that a new class of solar system objects, later called **asteroids**, had been found.
2. The term "asteroid" literally means **star-like**.
3. Most asteroids are found in the region between Mars and Jupiter known as the **Main Belt**.
4. A region with very few asteroids in the Main Belt due to Jupiter's gravity is called the **Kirkwood Gap**.
5. Asteroids with similar orbits that may have come from a common parent body are called **families**.
6. Despite their numbers, asteroids in the Main Belt are so spread out that the region is mostly **empty space**.
7. The largest asteroid in the Main Belt is **Ceres**, measuring about 900 km across.
8. Ceres is believed to have a rocky core and a mantle made of **water ice**.
9. Vesta, a large asteroid, has a southern hemisphere heavily damaged by **impacts**.
10. Some asteroids consist of loosely bound rocks held together by gravity, forming a structure called a **rubble pile**.
11. The Japanese spacecraft Hayabusa revealed that the asteroid Itokawa was a **jumbled mess** of rocks and debris.
12. Asteroids with orbits that cross Mars's orbit are known as **Mars-crossing** asteroids.
13. Asteroids that cross Earth's orbit and can get close to our planet are called **Apollo** asteroids.
14. Asteroids found at Lagrange points 60° ahead or behind a planet's orbit are known as **Trojan** asteroids.
15. Some asteroids share Earth's orbit in a stable but separate path and are referred to as **co-orbital** asteroids.

15 Questions

Answer Key Included

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