

# Facts About Asteroids



## Basic Information About Asteroids

1. Asteroids shown are Vesta (upper left), Ida and its moon Dactyl (upper right), Eros (lower left), and Gaspra (lower right). These images are not shown to scale.
2. Asteroids are relatively small, inactive, rocky bodies orbiting the Sun.
3. Most asteroids orbit the Sun between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter.
4. The largest asteroid is Ceres, 590 miles in diameter.
5. Some asteroids have orbits that cross the Earth's orbit and therefore have the potential to hit Earth sometime in the future. The probability of this happening is extremely small though.
6. This diagram shows the ten largest asteroids compared in size to the Earth's moon.

