













## comet asteroid

When this object crashes into Earth, it is called a meteorite. It will leave a crater where it lands. Not all objects are made of rock. A is made of dust and ice. The ice melts as it approaches the Sun. The melting ice-ball looks like it leaves a tail behind it as it goes.





In addition to the planets, Sun and moons that make up our solar system, there are a lot of other objects floating around out there. Some of these objects are asteroids, comets and meteors.



(touch the image to enlarge)

Asteroids are the thousands of rocky lumps that form a circle around the Sun in a big band between Mars and Jupiter. One of the biggest asteroids — Ceres — is about 592 miles (952 kilometers) across. Others are as small as a grain of sand. Several hundred thousand asteroids have been identified so far. Asteroids are leftover rocks from the time when the planets were first formed.

## Asteroids, Meteors & Comets

