

ASTEROIDS



"ANCIENT SPACE RUBBLE"



Asteroids are rocky fragments left over from the formation of the solar system about 4.6 billion years ago. Most of these chunks of ancient space rubble, sometimes referred to by scientists as minor planets, can be found orbiting the Sun in a belt between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter. This region is called the Asteroid Belt or Main Belt and probably contains millions of asteroids.

In February 2001, the Shoemaker-NEAR spacecraft touched down on asteroid Eros after transmitting 69 closeup images of the surface during its descent.



While observing asteroid Ida in 1993, the Galileo spacecraft discovered a tiny moon. Scientists named the little satellite "Dactyl."



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