



NEAR-EARTH
OBJECTS

1
00:00:00,334 --> 00:00:03,871
Here's what you need to know
about near-Earth objects.

2
00:00:04,505 --> 00:00:08,642
Our solar system is littered
with asteroids and comets,

3
00:00:08,675 --> 00:00:12,346
and sometimes they get
a little close to Earth.

4
00:00:12,379 --> 00:00:14,314
But no need to worry.

5
00:00:15,249 --> 00:00:19,219
This happens all the time.

6
00:00:19,253 --> 00:00:23,824
When an asteroid or comet could
come close to our planet,

7
00:00:23,857 --> 00:00:26,894
it's known as a near-Earth object,
AKA NEO.

8
00:00:26,927 --> 00:00:29,563
But how close is "close"?

9
00:00:29,596 --> 00:00:32,232
A near-Earth object is defined
as an object

10
00:00:32,266 --> 00:00:36,803
that could pass by our Earth
within 30 million miles!

11
00:00:36,837 --> 00:00:39,940
NASA begins to keep close watch on objects

12

00:00:41,842 --> 00:00:46,280

that could pass within 5 million miles
of our planet.

13

00:00:46,313 --> 00:00:51,552

To put that in perspective,
our Moon is only 238,900 miles away.

14

00:00:51,585 --> 00:00:54,588

However unlikely an impact is,

15

00:00:54,621 --> 00:00:57,891

NASA wants to know
about all near-Earth objects.

16

00:00:57,925 --> 00:01:02,696

The space agency's
Planetary Defense Coordination Office

17

00:01:02,729 --> 00:01:05,899

maintains watch for asteroids and comets
coming close to Earth

18

00:01:05,933 --> 00:01:09,536

in order to warn of any potential impacts.

19

00:01:09,570 --> 00:01:15,909

Along with its partners, they discover,
catalog and characterize these bodies.

20

00:01:15,943 --> 00:01:20,948

But what if one of these objects
posed a threat?

21

00:01:20,981 --> 00:01:23,951

We want to be prepared.

22

00:01:23,984 --> 00:01:26,920

That's why NASA is working on several deflection techniques and technologies

23

00:01:26,954 --> 00:01:29,456

to help protect our planet.

24

00:01:31,725 --> 00:01:35,796

So next time that you hear of an asteroid passing "close" to Earth,

25

00:01:35,829 --> 00:01:39,933

know that it's just one of many that NASA is tracking.

26

00:01:39,967 --> 00:01:44,838

And that's what you need to know about near-Earth objects.