



# LUCY IN THE SKY WITH ASTEROIDS



SCIENCE LIVE

VIRTUAL EDITION

1  
00:00:00,530 --> 00:00:10,709

[Music]

2  
00:00:15,990 --> 00:00:13,430

comets and asteroids are truly the time

3  
00:00:18,710 --> 00:00:16,000

capsules of our galaxy with many of them

4  
00:00:21,429 --> 00:00:18,720

dating back to more than 4 billion years

5  
00:00:23,750 --> 00:00:21,439

ago these prehistoric treasures hold the

6  
00:00:26,870 --> 00:00:23,760

lost tales about the origins of our

7  
00:00:29,109 --> 00:00:26,880

solar system and luckily we are slowly

8  
00:00:31,830 --> 00:00:29,119

starting to unravel its story

9  
00:00:34,630 --> 00:00:31,840

missions like nasa's osiris-rex and jack

10  
00:00:36,870 --> 00:00:34,640

says hybus hivasua ii are providing

11  
00:00:40,069 --> 00:00:36,880

insight into the history of our solar

12  
00:00:43,110 --> 00:00:40,079

system and even how life began on earth

13  
00:00:45,590 --> 00:00:43,120

so what's next hello and welcome to

14

00:00:48,389 --> 00:00:45,600

another virtual episode of nasa science

15

00:00:50,630 --> 00:00:48,399

live i'm your host tahira allen and

16

00:00:53,750 --> 00:00:50,640

today we're talking all about one of

17

00:00:56,229 --> 00:00:53,760

nasa's upcoming asteroid missions lucy

18

00:00:58,790 --> 00:00:56,239

the first spacecraft to study the trojan

19

00:01:01,349 --> 00:00:58,800

asteroids which orbit the sun in two

20

00:01:03,110 --> 00:01:01,359

groups one in front of jupiter's path

21

00:01:05,830 --> 00:01:03,120

and the other behind it

22

00:01:08,390 --> 00:01:05,840

once launched in october 2021 the

23

00:01:10,710 --> 00:01:08,400

mission will complete a 12-year journey

24

00:01:13,590 --> 00:01:10,720

to seven different trojan asteroids that

25

00:01:16,550 --> 00:01:13,600

may hold vital clues to deciphering the

26

00:01:18,870 --> 00:01:16,560

history of our solar system but before

27

00:01:24,810 --> 00:01:18,880

we get started let's take a deeper look

28

00:02:59,509 --> 00:01:57,210

[Music]

29

00:03:03,270 --> 00:03:01,270

great so now that we learned a little

30

00:03:05,430 --> 00:03:03,280

bit more about this exciting mission

31

00:03:08,070 --> 00:03:05,440

let's talk to some of the experts behind

32

00:03:11,509 --> 00:03:08,080

it i am thrilled to be joined today by

33

00:03:13,270 --> 00:03:11,519

dr adriana ocampo lucy program executive

34

00:03:15,990 --> 00:03:13,280

at nasa headquarters

35

00:03:18,149 --> 00:03:16,000

dr kathy olkan deputy principal

36

00:03:21,350 --> 00:03:18,159

investigator for southwest research

37

00:03:23,990 --> 00:03:21,360

institute and jessica thompson project

38

00:03:25,830 --> 00:03:24,000

systems engineer at nasa goddard ladies

39

00:03:28,309 --> 00:03:25,840

thank you all so much for being here

40

00:03:30,229 --> 00:03:28,319

today and to kick things off could you

41

00:03:33,710 --> 00:03:30,239

help us understand a little bit more

42

00:03:36,869 --> 00:03:33,720

about what a trojan asteroid is

43

00:03:37,750 --> 00:03:36,879

yes thank you for that question

44

00:03:40,949 --> 00:03:37,760

um

45

00:03:43,670 --> 00:03:40,959

let's see if we go back in time to a

46

00:03:45,830 --> 00:03:43,680

point about four and a half billion

47

00:03:48,710 --> 00:03:45,840

years ago

48

00:03:51,110 --> 00:03:48,720

when the early solar system was

49

00:03:54,070 --> 00:03:51,120

could have seen a dense cloud

50

00:03:55,190 --> 00:03:54,080

interstellar dust then this dust would

51  
00:03:58,710 --> 00:03:55,200  
have

52  
00:04:01,589 --> 00:03:58,720  
collapsed and formed the solar nebula

53  
00:04:03,190 --> 00:04:01,599  
which started to speak ensure by the

54  
00:04:06,070 --> 00:04:03,200  
gravitational force

55  
00:04:08,309 --> 00:04:06,080  
and that is what grabbed that material

56  
00:04:11,270 --> 00:04:08,319  
and started forming the

57  
00:04:15,190 --> 00:04:11,280  
the early planet solar system

58  
00:04:16,390 --> 00:04:15,200  
and the trojans are really the remnant

59  
00:04:20,310 --> 00:04:16,400  
of that

60  
00:04:25,030 --> 00:04:20,320  
planetary formation process that form

61  
00:04:26,870 --> 00:04:25,040  
planets like jupiter's saturn action and

62  
00:04:30,310 --> 00:04:26,880  
venus

63  
00:04:32,310 --> 00:04:30,320

we are very excited that uh

64

00:04:34,790 --> 00:04:32,320

for the first time we're going to go and

65

00:04:37,749 --> 00:04:34,800

explore a solar system

66

00:04:40,230 --> 00:04:37,759

uh with a loose emission in this epic

67

00:04:42,550 --> 00:04:40,240

voyage of 12 years

68

00:04:45,110 --> 00:04:42,560

and the lunch countdown has already

69

00:04:45,909 --> 00:04:45,120

started we are only at 10

70

00:04:48,790 --> 00:04:45,919

um

71

00:04:55,189 --> 00:04:48,800

10 months and 12 days from the opening

72

00:05:00,550 --> 00:04:57,749

there are thousands of asteroids out

73

00:05:03,189 --> 00:05:00,560

there and lucy will fly by them between

74

00:05:05,430 --> 00:05:03,199

300 and 600 miles away

75

00:05:07,430 --> 00:05:05,440

allowing us a close-up view of all the

76

00:05:10,230 --> 00:05:07,440

detail on the surface

77

00:05:12,070 --> 00:05:10,240

these asteroids are in a unique position

78

00:05:14,550 --> 00:05:12,080

in that they are clustered in jupiter's

79

00:05:16,310 --> 00:05:14,560

orbit at the lagrange points

80

00:05:18,629 --> 00:05:16,320

lagrange points are places in space

81

00:05:20,870 --> 00:05:18,639

where objects tend to stay put due to

82

00:05:22,469 --> 00:05:20,880

the gravitational pull of two large

83

00:05:24,710 --> 00:05:22,479

masses nearby

84

00:05:26,469 --> 00:05:24,720

the forces on these small bodies put

85

00:05:28,070 --> 00:05:26,479

them in equilibrium

86

00:05:30,790 --> 00:05:28,080

meaning they're trapped in place

87

00:05:34,550 --> 00:05:30,800

allowing lily to fly to them and image

88

00:05:39,510 --> 00:05:37,350

and one of the really intriguing aspects

89

00:05:41,430 --> 00:05:39,520

of the trojan asteroids is that they're

90

00:05:43,590 --> 00:05:41,440

a diverse population

91

00:05:46,310 --> 00:05:43,600

from astronomical observations they

92

00:05:48,390 --> 00:05:46,320

appear to be just a point of light but

93

00:05:49,350 --> 00:05:48,400

that's enough information so that we can

94

00:05:51,590 --> 00:05:49,360

see

95

00:05:54,310 --> 00:05:51,600

some of the surface properties like

96

00:05:56,629 --> 00:05:54,320

color and surface composition and we can

97

00:05:58,550 --> 00:05:56,639

see that there's a wide range some

98

00:06:00,710 --> 00:05:58,560

trojan asteroids are more red than

99

00:06:03,430 --> 00:06:00,720

others for example

100

00:06:05,749 --> 00:06:03,440

and this is an image of two of our

101  
00:06:09,029 --> 00:06:05,759  
trojan targets that lucy will go and

102  
00:06:10,710 --> 00:06:09,039  
visit this is patroclus and menacius

103  
00:06:13,590 --> 00:06:10,720  
this image was taken with the hubble

104  
00:06:15,590 --> 00:06:13,600  
space telescope and these targets are

105  
00:06:17,670 --> 00:06:15,600  
really interesting because

106  
00:06:20,629 --> 00:06:17,680  
they are a binary system and they're

107  
00:06:25,029 --> 00:06:20,639  
about the same size so they orbit a

108  
00:06:29,510 --> 00:06:26,950  
wow so what we already know is

109  
00:06:31,189 --> 00:06:29,520  
fascinating and i'm wondering why is it

110  
00:06:33,430 --> 00:06:31,199  
important for a mission like lucy to

111  
00:06:35,110 --> 00:06:33,440  
study them

112  
00:06:37,430 --> 00:06:35,120  
well the diversity of the trojan

113  
00:06:41,110 --> 00:06:37,440

asteroids is a clue that they really had

114

00:06:43,270 --> 00:06:41,120

a very interesting history if they were

115

00:06:45,270 --> 00:06:43,280

formed in the location we find them in

116

00:06:47,510 --> 00:06:45,280

today we would have expected a much more

117

00:06:48,469 --> 00:06:47,520

uniform population

118

00:06:50,950 --> 00:06:48,479

but

119

00:06:52,950 --> 00:06:50,960

we don't see that and there's some

120

00:06:55,670 --> 00:06:52,960

current theories of

121

00:06:57,909 --> 00:06:55,680

uh modern solar modern theories of solar

122

00:06:59,830 --> 00:06:57,919

system formation that involve the

123

00:07:02,390 --> 00:06:59,840

migration of

124

00:07:05,110 --> 00:07:02,400

giant planets away from the sun and this

125

00:07:07,510 --> 00:07:05,120

causes a chaotic disruption of the small

126

00:07:09,510 --> 00:07:07,520

bodies in the solar system

127

00:07:11,430 --> 00:07:09,520

and we believe that this caused some of

128

00:07:14,950 --> 00:07:11,440

these bodies to be ejected from our

129

00:07:16,870 --> 00:07:14,960

solar system and others to be trapped in

130

00:07:19,990 --> 00:07:16,880

these lagrange points

131

00:07:22,150 --> 00:07:20,000

forming the trojan asteroids that we see

132

00:07:24,550 --> 00:07:22,160

and for these reasons over the course of

133

00:07:28,830 --> 00:07:24,560

12 years we're going to visit seven

134

00:07:33,749 --> 00:07:31,350

spacecraft so to add to

135

00:07:36,710 --> 00:07:33,759

what kathy just mentioned

136

00:07:39,029 --> 00:07:36,720

um you know one of the key questions

137

00:07:41,589 --> 00:07:39,039

that we have in planetary science is

138

00:07:45,270 --> 00:07:41,599

what is the molecule of water and the

139

00:07:48,390 --> 00:07:45,280

organic material that sparked the life

140

00:07:51,350 --> 00:07:48,400

as knowledge in our planet came from

141

00:07:53,909 --> 00:07:51,360

and asteroids hold the key to these

142

00:07:56,550 --> 00:07:53,919

questions and by studying the trojan

143

00:07:59,430 --> 00:07:56,560

asteroids the loose emission will shed

144

00:08:01,510 --> 00:07:59,440

light to this enigmatic

145

00:08:04,390 --> 00:08:01,520

question on how

146

00:08:07,110 --> 00:08:04,400

life may have arrived to earth

147

00:08:10,230 --> 00:08:07,120

lucy will not only investigate the

148

00:08:12,309 --> 00:08:10,240

trojan asteroids composition but it will

149

00:08:16,230 --> 00:08:12,319

also

150

00:08:19,589 --> 00:08:16,240

be able to inform the relative age and

151

00:08:21,589 --> 00:08:19,599

the chronology on how the processes

152

00:08:24,230 --> 00:08:21,599

happen in the formation of the solar

153

00:08:30,150 --> 00:08:26,950

wow i mean this is all super incredible

154

00:08:33,509 --> 00:08:30,160

and so jessica i actually heard that the

155

00:08:34,630 --> 00:08:33,519

name lucy has a tie to the beatles um

156

00:08:37,350 --> 00:08:34,640

and i was wondering if you could

157

00:08:40,790 --> 00:08:37,360

elaborate on that

158

00:08:43,190 --> 00:08:40,800

yeah it absolutely does lucy is named

159

00:08:45,590 --> 00:08:43,200

after the hominin skeleton fossil that

160

00:08:47,030 --> 00:08:45,600

was discovered in ethiopia by donald

161

00:08:49,670 --> 00:08:47,040

johansen

162

00:08:52,790 --> 00:08:49,680

and upon discovering this skeleton

163

00:08:54,870 --> 00:08:52,800

the team celebrated looking to the stars

164

00:08:56,550 --> 00:08:54,880

while playing the beatles song lucy in

165

00:08:59,030 --> 00:08:56,560

the sky with diamonds

166

00:09:00,790 --> 00:08:59,040

which led to the name of the fossil

167

00:09:02,870 --> 00:09:00,800

and just like the discovery of this

168

00:09:05,590 --> 00:09:02,880

skeleton taught us about the origins of

169

00:09:07,590 --> 00:09:05,600

humanity the lucy asteroid mission will

170

00:09:10,470 --> 00:09:07,600

teach us about the origins of the solar

171

00:09:15,990 --> 00:09:13,509

well i mean lucy has a very big task at

172

00:09:18,550 --> 00:09:16,000

hand it sounds like and i'm wondering

173

00:09:22,389 --> 00:09:18,560

what are some of the instruments that um

174

00:09:23,990 --> 00:09:22,399

the mission has to complete this

175

00:09:25,590 --> 00:09:24,000

that's a great question

176

00:09:27,670 --> 00:09:25,600

so although we can't see the

177

00:09:30,550 --> 00:09:27,680

characteristics of the trojans very well

178

00:09:32,870 --> 00:09:30,560

from the ground lucy has five cameras on

179

00:09:35,190 --> 00:09:32,880

board that will capture close-up images

180

00:09:36,790 --> 00:09:35,200

in different wavelengths the lorry

181

00:09:38,389 --> 00:09:36,800

instrument will take pictures in the

182

00:09:40,470 --> 00:09:38,399

visible spectrum

183

00:09:42,150 --> 00:09:40,480

similar to your iphone camera but more

184

00:09:43,590 --> 00:09:42,160

sophisticated

185

00:09:45,990 --> 00:09:43,600

which will allow this mission to be able

186

00:09:47,750 --> 00:09:46,000

to get a great view of the geology of

187

00:09:50,470 --> 00:09:47,760

the surface

188

00:09:51,350 --> 00:09:50,480

lucy also has a thermal camera named

189

00:09:52,870 --> 00:09:51,360

tess

190

00:09:55,190 --> 00:09:52,880

that will take pictures of the

191

00:09:58,389 --> 00:09:55,200

temperature on the surface similar to

192

00:10:01,110 --> 00:09:58,399

seeing a body heat picture of yourself

193

00:10:04,069 --> 00:10:01,120

and our third camera is kind of a two in

194

00:10:07,030 --> 00:10:04,079

one camera called ralph which takes

195

00:10:09,430 --> 00:10:07,040

infrared and visible color images by

196

00:10:14,310 --> 00:10:09,440

scanning the surface of each asteroid as

197

00:10:18,949 --> 00:10:16,470

and also we have a

198

00:10:20,710 --> 00:10:18,959

very interesting experiment

199

00:10:23,030 --> 00:10:20,720

on board the

200

00:10:25,430 --> 00:10:23,040

the spacecraft that we call the gravity

201  
00:10:27,910 --> 00:10:25,440  
experiment we actually use

202  
00:10:31,350 --> 00:10:27,920  
the hygiene antenna that you can see

203  
00:10:33,509 --> 00:10:31,360  
here the encircle the circle in silver

204  
00:10:36,069 --> 00:10:33,519  
and this is in a collaboration with the

205  
00:10:37,350 --> 00:10:36,079  
germany german space

206  
00:10:39,670 --> 00:10:37,360  
agency

207  
00:10:42,230 --> 00:10:39,680  
uh and these the gravity experiments

208  
00:10:44,069 --> 00:10:42,240  
will help us determine the mass of the

209  
00:10:47,910 --> 00:10:44,079  
trojan

210  
00:10:48,870 --> 00:10:47,920  
asteroids as the lucid spacecraft fly by

211  
00:10:50,870 --> 00:10:48,880  
them

212  
00:10:53,269 --> 00:10:50,880  
this is a very sensitive

213  
00:10:54,790 --> 00:10:53,279

experiment that will

214

00:10:56,310 --> 00:10:54,800

enable

215

00:10:58,230 --> 00:10:56,320

to determine

216

00:11:01,670 --> 00:10:58,240

any deviation on the spacecraft

217

00:11:03,030 --> 00:11:01,680

trajectory as it flies by the trojan

218

00:11:03,910 --> 00:11:03,040

asteroids

219

00:11:07,590 --> 00:11:03,920

and

220

00:11:10,069 --> 00:11:07,600

in that way will determine the mass of

221

00:11:12,630 --> 00:11:10,079

or or the amount of matter that there is

222

00:11:15,190 --> 00:11:12,640

in these objects and from there their

223

00:11:17,590 --> 00:11:15,200

density

224

00:11:19,750 --> 00:11:17,600

and we also have two terminal tracking

225

00:11:21,350 --> 00:11:19,760

cameras on board these are part of the

226

00:11:23,509 --> 00:11:21,360

guidance and control system of the

227

00:11:26,069 --> 00:11:23,519

spacecraft but we'll be able to use

228

00:11:27,910 --> 00:11:26,079

these cameras to collect wide field of

229

00:11:30,389 --> 00:11:27,920

view images

230

00:11:33,430 --> 00:11:30,399

as we fly past you can see them at the

231

00:11:35,829 --> 00:11:33,440

top of this graphic this is our

232

00:11:38,389 --> 00:11:35,839

instrument pointing platform

233

00:11:41,269 --> 00:11:38,399

where our cameras reside and it's the

234

00:11:42,389 --> 00:11:41,279

two small objects round objects at the

235

00:11:45,030 --> 00:11:42,399

top

236

00:11:48,069 --> 00:11:45,040

and we will use these

237

00:11:51,750 --> 00:11:48,079

uh cameras to be able to get the volume

238

00:11:52,870 --> 00:11:51,760

of the trojan asteroids through imaging

239

00:11:57,829 --> 00:11:52,880

and

240

00:11:59,990 --> 00:11:57,839

be able to learn about the density of

241

00:12:02,389 --> 00:12:00,000

our trojan asteroids

242

00:12:03,910 --> 00:12:02,399

using all of these instruments together

243

00:12:06,550 --> 00:12:03,920

we're going to be able to investigate

244

00:12:08,949 --> 00:12:06,560

the geology the surface composition

245

00:12:11,430 --> 00:12:08,959

their internal properties and search for

246

00:12:12,629 --> 00:12:11,440

satellites at these trojan asteroids

247

00:12:15,030 --> 00:12:12,639

it's going to be a great first

248

00:12:17,110 --> 00:12:15,040

reconnaissance

249

00:12:19,430 --> 00:12:17,120

wow and this just sounds like a really

250

00:12:22,069 --> 00:12:19,440

complex piece of technology and i'm

251  
00:12:24,389 --> 00:12:22,079  
wondering how many people work on this

252  
00:12:26,550 --> 00:12:24,399  
mission

253  
00:12:29,829 --> 00:12:26,560  
tahira that's a great question there's

254  
00:12:31,990 --> 00:12:29,839  
approximately 750 people that have been

255  
00:12:34,550 --> 00:12:32,000  
involved with this lucy mission

256  
00:12:35,829 --> 00:12:34,560  
lucy family is really a big mix of

257  
00:12:38,470 --> 00:12:35,839  
engineers

258  
00:12:41,030 --> 00:12:38,480  
technicians scientists

259  
00:12:43,990 --> 00:12:41,040  
managers and even interns

260  
00:12:45,910 --> 00:12:44,000  
our team is truly the key to our success

261  
00:12:47,910 --> 00:12:45,920  
and it's been very motivating to work

262  
00:12:49,430 --> 00:12:47,920  
with people from multiple organizations

263  
00:12:51,269 --> 00:12:49,440

and universities

264

00:12:53,350 --> 00:12:51,279

and i'll tell you each and every

265

00:12:55,829 --> 00:12:53,360

person's role and experience on this

266

00:12:58,470 --> 00:12:55,839

mission has been vital to designing

267

00:13:01,430 --> 00:12:58,480

building testing and soon to be

268

00:13:03,910 --> 00:13:01,440

launching this spacecraft

269

00:13:06,069 --> 00:13:03,920

wow that is incredible to know that so

270

00:13:08,550 --> 00:13:06,079

many people come together for one

271

00:13:10,550 --> 00:13:08,560

amazing object and but i do want to go

272

00:13:13,030 --> 00:13:10,560

back to an animation earlier in the show

273

00:13:15,190 --> 00:13:13,040

because it looked like there were swarms

274

00:13:17,430 --> 00:13:15,200

of trojan asteroids um in front of

275

00:13:19,430 --> 00:13:17,440

behind jupiter and so i'm wondering if

276

00:13:21,670 --> 00:13:19,440

we were standing on one of the trojan

277

00:13:23,829 --> 00:13:21,680

asteroids would we see many of them

278

00:13:25,670 --> 00:13:23,839

around us

279

00:13:27,910 --> 00:13:25,680

while these green dots look like they're

280

00:13:30,790 --> 00:13:27,920

really close together the animation

281

00:13:32,150 --> 00:13:30,800

doesn't convey how vast and empty space

282

00:13:33,750 --> 00:13:32,160

actually is

283

00:13:36,150 --> 00:13:33,760

it wouldn't look like the millennium

284

00:13:38,069 --> 00:13:36,160

falcon flying through an asteroid belt

285

00:13:40,870 --> 00:13:38,079

dodging asteroids

286

00:13:43,030 --> 00:13:40,880

of the about 5 000 known trojan

287

00:13:45,670 --> 00:13:43,040

asteroids in each swarm they're

288

00:13:48,710 --> 00:13:45,680

separated each separated by about 9

289

00:13:51,750 --> 00:13:48,720

million miles so if we were standing on

290

00:13:54,629 --> 00:13:51,760

a trojan asteroid and looked out at them

291

00:13:56,069 --> 00:13:54,639

at the at the other trojans there we

292

00:13:57,350 --> 00:13:56,079

actually wouldn't be able to see them

293

00:13:59,350 --> 00:13:57,360

with our eye

294

00:14:01,509 --> 00:13:59,360

or at least not many of them because

295

00:14:04,230 --> 00:14:01,519

some of them would be as faint as a 10th

296

00:14:06,470 --> 00:14:04,240

magnitude star

297

00:14:08,629 --> 00:14:06,480

wow okay those movies are very deceiving

298

00:14:11,590 --> 00:14:08,639

uh thank you for putting that input into

299

00:14:13,350 --> 00:14:11,600

perspective for us and so i am seeing a

300

00:14:15,990 --> 00:14:13,360

lot of great questions rolling from

301  
00:14:17,509 --> 00:14:16,000  
users online and if you are watching now

302  
00:14:19,430 --> 00:14:17,519  
please don't hesitate to join the

303  
00:14:21,110 --> 00:14:19,440  
conversation with us submit your

304  
00:14:23,030 --> 00:14:21,120  
questions in the comment box where

305  
00:14:25,910 --> 00:14:23,040  
you're viewing from or by using the

306  
00:14:28,389 --> 00:14:25,920  
hashtag asknasa on social media so

307  
00:14:31,110 --> 00:14:28,399  
ladies to kick things off i have nope

308  
00:14:33,829 --> 00:14:31,120  
nope nope on youtube uh jessica i think

309  
00:14:36,150 --> 00:14:33,839  
this is a good one for you who asks will

310  
00:14:38,790 --> 00:14:36,160  
lucy be sending data and photos during

311  
00:14:44,870 --> 00:14:41,670  
yeah great question so lucy has a

312  
00:14:47,670 --> 00:14:44,880  
two-way light time of about 45 minutes

313  
00:14:49,509 --> 00:14:47,680

to send commands and receive data

314

00:14:51,670 --> 00:14:49,519

so we'll have the first images back

315

00:14:54,550 --> 00:14:51,680

within a few hours after flying by the

316

00:14:58,389 --> 00:14:54,560

first asteroid which is your babies will

317

00:15:03,269 --> 00:15:00,550

nice that is so exciting to hear that

318

00:15:04,949 --> 00:15:03,279

they're coming back and so uh kathy i've

319

00:15:06,069 --> 00:15:04,959

got a great one for you

320

00:15:08,629 --> 00:15:06,079

um

321

00:15:11,670 --> 00:15:08,639

sean on youtube asks what is the

322

00:15:14,150 --> 00:15:11,680

composition of a trojan asteroid

323

00:15:15,750 --> 00:15:14,160

well that's a really good question

324

00:15:17,269 --> 00:15:15,760

so um

325

00:15:19,430 --> 00:15:17,279

they

326  
00:15:20,870 --> 00:15:19,440  
have different spectral types and that's

327  
00:15:22,470 --> 00:15:20,880  
how we can tell about the surface

328  
00:15:23,350 --> 00:15:22,480  
composition

329  
00:15:25,750 --> 00:15:23,360  
and

330  
00:15:28,069 --> 00:15:25,760  
they look like some of the asteroids in

331  
00:15:31,590 --> 00:15:28,079  
the asteroid belt we call them uh

332  
00:15:33,749 --> 00:15:31,600  
there's c d and p type asteroids that

333  
00:15:35,509 --> 00:15:33,759  
are in the asteroid belt or in the

334  
00:15:37,749 --> 00:15:35,519  
trojan asteroids

335  
00:15:39,189 --> 00:15:37,759  
and one thing we really want to know

336  
00:15:40,949 --> 00:15:39,199  
when we visit

337  
00:15:43,990 --> 00:15:40,959  
with lucy is

338  
00:15:46,150 --> 00:15:44,000

what is the composition is there water

339

00:15:49,110 --> 00:15:46,160

uh near the surface

340

00:15:51,189 --> 00:15:49,120

what other uh what are the densities of

341

00:15:53,189 --> 00:15:51,199

these objects so part of the reason

342

00:15:54,470 --> 00:15:53,199

we're going to visit is really to answer

343

00:15:56,870 --> 00:15:54,480

that question

344

00:15:57,990 --> 00:15:56,880

and from the ground we can see the

345

00:15:59,189 --> 00:15:58,000

overall

346

00:16:02,790 --> 00:15:59,199

uh

347

00:16:05,509 --> 00:16:02,800

composition of the surface but to see

348

00:16:09,509 --> 00:16:05,519

surface details that aren't resolved

349

00:16:10,870 --> 00:16:09,519

will really need to send a spacecraft

350

00:16:13,269 --> 00:16:10,880

so actually kathy i've got a great

351

00:16:15,110 --> 00:16:13,279

follow-up to you so john on facebook

352

00:16:18,629 --> 00:16:15,120

wants to know will we know where the

353

00:16:22,310 --> 00:16:20,310

that's a good question and we're going

354

00:16:23,509 --> 00:16:22,320

to be trying to answer that question and

355

00:16:27,910 --> 00:16:23,519

by looking

356

00:16:33,269 --> 00:16:31,030

stable at further distances from the sun

357

00:16:35,509 --> 00:16:33,279

if we can find those on the trojan

358

00:16:38,470 --> 00:16:35,519

asteroids that's going to be one key

359

00:16:39,189 --> 00:16:38,480

clue to where they had originated

360

00:16:45,749 --> 00:16:39,199

the

361

00:16:47,430 --> 00:16:45,759

is going to be something we're looking

362

00:16:51,189 --> 00:16:47,440

for when we fly by

363

00:16:55,189 --> 00:16:51,199

in starting in 2027

364

00:16:57,269 --> 00:16:55,199

nice okay um adriana uh lori jones on

365

00:16:59,509 --> 00:16:57,279

twitter asks if the lucy mission is

366

00:17:01,670 --> 00:16:59,519

successful and provides good data are

367

00:17:04,150 --> 00:17:01,680

there plans for future missions uh such

368

00:17:07,029 --> 00:17:04,160

as lucy's

369

00:17:09,029 --> 00:17:07,039

yes that's a great question because you

370

00:17:11,510 --> 00:17:09,039

know in planetary exploration what we

371

00:17:13,669 --> 00:17:11,520

have learned is usually we fly by

372

00:17:17,990 --> 00:17:13,679

objects by planets

373

00:17:19,429 --> 00:17:18,000

and then the next step is toward the

374

00:17:23,270 --> 00:17:19,439

object or

375

00:17:27,110 --> 00:17:23,280

and then and then to learn so we did our

376

00:17:30,070 --> 00:17:27,120

planning and uh will be having

377

00:17:33,029 --> 00:17:30,080

calls out for by the scientific

378

00:17:35,830 --> 00:17:33,039

community to propose the follow-up

379

00:17:39,270 --> 00:17:35,840

missions to the lucid mission so a lot

380

00:17:41,510 --> 00:17:39,280

more to come this is just the beginning

381

00:17:43,750 --> 00:17:41,520

so i'm interested to know there was

382

00:17:46,549 --> 00:17:43,760

nasa's osiris-rex mission was recently

383

00:17:52,470 --> 00:17:46,559

in the news for its first tag sample and

384

00:17:52,480 --> 00:17:56,230

so the osiris-rex commission

385

00:18:00,390 --> 00:17:57,990

go ahead kathy yes

386

00:18:01,669 --> 00:18:00,400

thank you adriana uh the

387

00:18:03,990 --> 00:18:01,679

the

388

00:18:06,150 --> 00:18:04,000

nasa has a whole suite of asteroid

389

00:18:09,350 --> 00:18:06,160

missions that work together really

390

00:18:12,630 --> 00:18:09,360

synergistically and osiris-rex is one of

391

00:18:15,510 --> 00:18:12,640

them in the upcoming mission uh psyche

392

00:18:17,350 --> 00:18:15,520

to a metallic asteroid is another and

393

00:18:20,710 --> 00:18:17,360

all of these missions

394

00:18:23,909 --> 00:18:20,720

uh really give us different clues about

395

00:18:26,150 --> 00:18:23,919

the not only uh near-earth asteroids

396

00:18:27,830 --> 00:18:26,160

main belt asteroids but also trojan

397

00:18:29,750 --> 00:18:27,840

asteroids so we can really piece

398

00:18:31,909 --> 00:18:29,760

together uh

399

00:18:35,350 --> 00:18:31,919

how the planets in our solar system

400

00:18:39,909 --> 00:18:37,590

thank you for that and so ladies this is

401  
00:18:42,150 --> 00:18:39,919  
really for whoever wants to take it but

402  
00:18:45,669 --> 00:18:42,160  
jim bloodworth on youtube asks when is

403  
00:18:47,669 --> 00:18:45,679  
the launch and on what rocket

404  
00:18:51,750 --> 00:18:47,679  
oh i'll take that one

405  
00:18:54,789 --> 00:18:51,760  
we're launching october 16 2021 is the

406  
00:18:57,110 --> 00:18:54,799  
opening of our launch period and we're

407  
00:18:58,070 --> 00:18:57,120  
launching on an atlas v

408  
00:19:03,590 --> 00:18:58,080  
uh

409  
00:19:08,950 --> 00:19:05,990  
nice cannot wait we are under one year

410  
00:19:11,110 --> 00:19:08,960  
to launch everyone tuning in so uh okay

411  
00:19:13,669 --> 00:19:11,120  
here's another one

412  
00:19:16,230 --> 00:19:13,679  
aaron moose sorry if i'm messing that up

413  
00:19:19,070 --> 00:19:16,240

on youtube asks can you see the asteroid

414

00:19:20,310 --> 00:19:19,080

with a telescope

415

00:19:23,190 --> 00:19:20,320

[Music]

416

00:19:26,310 --> 00:19:23,200

yes and i'll i'll take that one

417

00:19:29,510 --> 00:19:26,320

you we can see uh the trojan asteroids

418

00:19:31,750 --> 00:19:29,520

with the telescope and in fact uh

419

00:19:34,310 --> 00:19:31,760

recently we discovered a small moon

420

00:19:37,110 --> 00:19:34,320

around one of our trojan targets that

421

00:19:39,669 --> 00:19:37,120

we're going to uh our first target is

422

00:19:41,350 --> 00:19:39,679

called urabades and we recently

423

00:19:43,350 --> 00:19:41,360

discovered an approximately one

424

00:19:44,310 --> 00:19:43,360

kilometer sized moon

425

00:19:45,110 --> 00:19:44,320

uh

426  
00:19:47,590 --> 00:19:45,120  
from

427  
00:19:48,870 --> 00:19:47,600  
uh the hubble space telescope

428  
00:19:53,029 --> 00:19:48,880  
and so this is

429  
00:19:54,789 --> 00:19:53,039  
uh an example of being able to see uh

430  
00:19:57,350 --> 00:19:54,799  
that trojan asteroids through a

431  
00:20:00,150 --> 00:19:57,360  
telescope and also

432  
00:20:02,310 --> 00:20:00,160  
uh being able to search and learn more

433  
00:20:04,870 --> 00:20:02,320  
about these interesting targets before

434  
00:20:09,190 --> 00:20:04,880  
we get there

435  
00:20:13,909 --> 00:20:10,870  
that the name of the

436  
00:20:17,029 --> 00:20:13,919  
um the new moon that was just discovered

437  
00:20:17,909 --> 00:20:17,039  
uh in is named keta

438  
00:20:20,630 --> 00:20:17,919

so

439

00:20:21,909 --> 00:20:20,640

it's it's a new discovery that the lucid

440

00:20:25,029 --> 00:20:21,919

team made

441

00:20:27,430 --> 00:20:25,039

with the cable space telescope

442

00:20:28,710 --> 00:20:27,440

so yes on the topic of discoveries oh

443

00:20:31,990 --> 00:20:28,720

sorry

444

00:20:35,750 --> 00:20:32,000

i just wanted to add um about that name

445

00:20:38,230 --> 00:20:35,760

uh the name is in honor of

446

00:20:41,669 --> 00:20:38,240

uh the first woman who was the olympic

447

00:20:44,710 --> 00:20:41,679

torchbearer and so uh we're really happy

448

00:20:49,669 --> 00:20:44,720

to be able to name this small moon in

449

00:20:53,990 --> 00:20:52,149

wow thank you that is a really fun fact

450

00:20:56,710 --> 00:20:54,000

um and so but on the topic of

451  
00:20:59,029 --> 00:20:56,720  
discoveries alex mann on youtube asks

452  
00:21:00,789 --> 00:20:59,039  
can lucy theoretically discover new

453  
00:21:05,110 --> 00:21:00,799  
asteroids on her way through the

454  
00:21:09,190 --> 00:21:06,870  
i can go ahead and take that

455  
00:21:12,149 --> 00:21:09,200  
um it is possible that lucy could

456  
00:21:13,029 --> 00:21:12,159  
discover uh asteroids

457  
00:21:16,470 --> 00:21:13,039  
uh

458  
00:21:17,430 --> 00:21:16,480  
either in the trojan asteroid swarms

459  
00:21:19,990 --> 00:21:17,440  
uh

460  
00:21:21,350 --> 00:21:20,000  
or potentially in the main belt but it's

461  
00:21:23,590 --> 00:21:21,360  
unlikely

462  
00:21:24,549 --> 00:21:23,600  
our telescopes have a very narrow field

463  
00:21:27,510 --> 00:21:24,559

of view

464

00:21:30,549 --> 00:21:27,520

our instruments do and so we won't be

465

00:21:33,430 --> 00:21:30,559

trying to search a broad area to find

466

00:21:35,430 --> 00:21:33,440

new main belt or trojan asteroids the

467

00:21:37,990 --> 00:21:35,440

real purpose is to get our first

468

00:21:39,430 --> 00:21:38,000

close-up look at the trojan asteroids

469

00:21:42,630 --> 00:21:39,440

that we'll be

470

00:21:46,870 --> 00:21:45,270

nice so jessica i want to go back to uh

471

00:21:48,549 --> 00:21:46,880

what you mentioned earlier in the show

472

00:21:50,549 --> 00:21:48,559

talking about how many people worked on

473

00:21:52,230 --> 00:21:50,559

this mission and i'm curious to know how

474

00:21:55,190 --> 00:21:52,240

long have these groups been working on

475

00:22:01,510 --> 00:21:58,789

oh wow uh so the discovery proposal for

476

00:22:03,110 --> 00:22:01,520

this i believe was uh started back in

477

00:22:06,789 --> 00:22:03,120

2014

478

00:22:09,270 --> 00:22:06,799

and lucy was awarded in 2016

479

00:22:14,070 --> 00:22:09,280

and so we've been working as a formal

480

00:22:18,630 --> 00:22:16,070

wow and to all come together in this one

481

00:22:21,270 --> 00:22:18,640

big moment next year that is so exciting

482

00:22:23,590 --> 00:22:21,280

um and ladies i've got a really great

483

00:22:27,590 --> 00:22:23,600

question for whoever wants to take it

484

00:22:33,350 --> 00:22:27,600

rehan on um youtube says will any of

485

00:22:38,710 --> 00:22:35,990

well i can start but i probably lose

486

00:22:39,510 --> 00:22:38,720

cathy could follow up

487

00:22:45,590 --> 00:22:39,520

no

488

00:22:49,510 --> 00:22:45,600

are really quite far away there as we

489

00:22:51,750 --> 00:22:49,520

mentioned in the jupiter's orbit so for

490

00:22:54,630 --> 00:22:51,760

them to be uh if they would have to be a

491

00:22:57,510 --> 00:22:54,640

major collision to deviate their their

492

00:22:59,029 --> 00:22:57,520

orbit to bring them closer to the inner

493

00:23:02,390 --> 00:22:59,039

solar system

494

00:23:04,870 --> 00:23:02,400

so there is no potential of impact from

495

00:23:08,470 --> 00:23:04,880

from the trojan asteroids around the

496

00:23:12,710 --> 00:23:11,110

yeah and i can just add that because

497

00:23:15,830 --> 00:23:12,720

they're in these lagrange points which

498

00:23:17,990 --> 00:23:15,840

are stability zones uh these objects are

499

00:23:20,390 --> 00:23:18,000

not going to escape and then impact

500

00:23:23,029 --> 00:23:20,400

earth and what that also means is that

501

00:23:25,669 --> 00:23:23,039

this is probably uh a specific

502

00:23:28,149 --> 00:23:25,679

population that's not represented in our

503

00:23:29,990 --> 00:23:28,159

meteorite collection on the ground

504

00:23:31,190 --> 00:23:30,000

making it even more important to go

505

00:23:31,909 --> 00:23:31,200

visit these

506

00:23:36,630 --> 00:23:31,919

uh

507

00:23:38,549 --> 00:23:36,640

trojan targets with our lucy spacecraft

508

00:23:40,070 --> 00:23:38,559

so kathy earlier you mentioned that if

509

00:23:42,630 --> 00:23:40,080

we were standing on an asteroid we

510

00:23:45,110 --> 00:23:42,640

wouldn't necessarily see the next one um

511

00:23:46,950 --> 00:23:45,120

right around us and gerald on youtube

512

00:23:50,549 --> 00:23:46,960

asks how long do you think it will take

513

00:23:51,430 --> 00:23:50,559

to go from asteroid to asteroid

514

00:23:53,190 --> 00:23:51,440

oh

515

00:23:55,350 --> 00:23:53,200

that's pretty interesting

516

00:23:58,630 --> 00:23:55,360

we have this really

517

00:23:59,669 --> 00:23:58,640

amazing trajectory that enables our

518

00:24:01,990 --> 00:23:59,679

uh

519

00:24:04,149 --> 00:24:02,000

our voyage through the trojan asteroids

520

00:24:07,430 --> 00:24:04,159

and you can see it here in this

521

00:24:09,590 --> 00:24:07,440

animation this is in a frame rotating

522

00:24:12,549 --> 00:24:09,600

with jupiter and so

523

00:24:15,269 --> 00:24:12,559

uh the blue line is uh the lucy

524

00:24:16,310 --> 00:24:15,279

trajectory and we fly

525

00:24:19,510 --> 00:24:16,320

out

526

00:24:21,590 --> 00:24:19,520

uh do two gravity assists past earth to

527

00:24:23,990 --> 00:24:21,600

pump up our aphelion so that we can get

528

00:24:27,750 --> 00:24:24,000

to the trojan asteroids then we fly

529

00:24:29,750 --> 00:24:27,760

through the l4 swarm visiting uh five

530

00:24:32,390 --> 00:24:29,760

different trojan asteroids

531

00:24:35,190 --> 00:24:32,400

first we visit like i said uh eurobabies

532

00:24:39,110 --> 00:24:35,200

and it's moon ketta and just 30 days

533

00:24:41,190 --> 00:24:39,120

later we fly past palomili but it's not

534

00:24:43,350 --> 00:24:41,200

until years later that we fly past

535

00:24:45,750 --> 00:24:43,360

patroclus and menonichious

536

00:24:46,710 --> 00:24:45,760

later in the l5 swarm

537

00:24:49,430 --> 00:24:46,720

so

538

00:24:54,870 --> 00:24:49,440

uh look forward to encounters with

539

00:25:02,070 --> 00:24:59,390

wow nice for a long time and jessica uh

540

00:25:05,430 --> 00:25:02,080

doggygamer13 on youtube asks how fast

541

00:25:10,870 --> 00:25:07,430

well when we're flying by the trojan

542

00:25:12,710 --> 00:25:10,880

asteroids we fly by between six and nine

543

00:25:15,029 --> 00:25:12,720

kilometers a second

544

00:25:19,269 --> 00:25:15,039

so that's kind of like doing a 10k in

545

00:25:22,630 --> 00:25:21,029

and one thing i'd like you to add to

546

00:25:24,950 --> 00:25:22,640

that is

547

00:25:26,549 --> 00:25:24,960

imagine as we're flying by trying to

548

00:25:29,590 --> 00:25:26,559

take images

549

00:25:31,990 --> 00:25:29,600

at those great speeds and part of the

550

00:25:33,190 --> 00:25:32,000

uh really interesting engineering on

551  
00:25:35,269 --> 00:25:33,200  
this mission

552  
00:25:36,870 --> 00:25:35,279  
is those are those terminal tracking

553  
00:25:38,630 --> 00:25:36,880  
cameras that i mentioned and they're

554  
00:25:39,750 --> 00:25:38,640  
mounted on an instrument pointing

555  
00:25:44,789 --> 00:25:39,760  
platform

556  
00:25:47,750 --> 00:25:44,799  
so that we can remain targeted on the

557  
00:25:50,630 --> 00:25:47,760  
trojan asteroid as we fly past at such

558  
00:25:53,909 --> 00:25:51,990  
so kathy

559  
00:25:55,830 --> 00:25:53,919  
do you know how

560  
00:25:58,390 --> 00:25:55,840  
how good of resolution are we talking

561  
00:26:00,310 --> 00:25:58,400  
about with these images

562  
00:26:02,549 --> 00:26:00,320  
oh the resolution is going to totally

563  
00:26:05,029 --> 00:26:02,559

transform our understanding of these

564

00:26:07,029 --> 00:26:05,039

trojan asteroids

565

00:26:10,630 --> 00:26:07,039

our highest resolution images will be

566

00:26:12,310 --> 00:26:10,640

about 14 meters per pixel so

567

00:26:13,909 --> 00:26:12,320

you will be able to see geologic

568

00:26:15,590 --> 00:26:13,919

features on their surface will be able

569

00:26:19,990 --> 00:26:15,600

to count craters

570

00:26:25,029 --> 00:26:23,190

nice and so this is for everyone astro

571

00:26:27,190 --> 00:26:25,039

girl on twitter wants to know why are

572

00:26:31,430 --> 00:26:27,200

there so many asteroids between mars and

573

00:26:37,350 --> 00:26:34,470

well um i can start it and then

574

00:26:38,470 --> 00:26:37,360

i'm sure cathy or jessica can follow up

575

00:26:40,710 --> 00:26:38,480

you know

576

00:26:43,590 --> 00:26:40,720

it's important to note that the trojan

577

00:26:46,310 --> 00:26:43,600

asteroids is a different family from

578

00:26:49,750 --> 00:26:46,320

the ones from the main belt dust

579

00:26:53,990 --> 00:26:49,760

the main belt which reside between

580

00:26:56,390 --> 00:26:54,000

mars and jupiter so and again we have

581

00:26:59,029 --> 00:26:56,400

visited the main belt asteroids with

582

00:27:02,870 --> 00:26:59,039

many other missions and we are planning

583

00:27:06,630 --> 00:27:02,880

to continue that relation is a set of

584

00:27:09,029 --> 00:27:06,640

a family of objects that are extremely

585

00:27:11,350 --> 00:27:09,039

importantly understand the chronology

586

00:27:13,990 --> 00:27:11,360

and the formation of the planet within

587

00:27:16,870 --> 00:27:14,000

the solar system but the trojan family

588

00:27:21,190 --> 00:27:16,880

that as i mentioned is we have mentioned

589

00:27:23,430 --> 00:27:21,200

that it has never been a study and

590

00:27:25,110 --> 00:27:23,440

they are the remnants you know during

591

00:27:27,029 --> 00:27:25,120

the formation of the system there were

592

00:27:27,830 --> 00:27:27,039

great collisions

593

00:27:36,630 --> 00:27:27,840

and

594

00:27:38,630 --> 00:27:36,640

material that did not accrete

595

00:27:39,909 --> 00:27:38,640

sufficiently

596

00:27:42,870 --> 00:27:39,919

to form

597

00:27:45,990 --> 00:27:42,880

all planets so

598

00:27:49,350 --> 00:27:46,000

these dogs that were left over from the

599

00:27:50,149 --> 00:27:49,360

planetary formation uh during

600

00:27:52,549 --> 00:27:50,159

of

601  
00:27:54,630 --> 00:27:52,559  
you know during the early solar system

602  
00:27:57,669 --> 00:27:54,640  
and that's why we have so many asteroids

603  
00:27:59,750 --> 00:27:57,679  
or these objects in the main belt in the

604  
00:28:02,310 --> 00:27:59,760  
trojans and as well

605  
00:28:04,070 --> 00:28:02,320  
far far away in the kuiper belt so

606  
00:28:05,830 --> 00:28:04,080  
they're they're all different families

607  
00:28:07,269 --> 00:28:05,840  
and they relate and we're trying to

608  
00:28:10,149 --> 00:28:07,279  
understand them

609  
00:28:12,389 --> 00:28:10,159  
what the relationship is

610  
00:28:13,990 --> 00:28:12,399  
thank you so much unfortunately that's

611  
00:28:15,430 --> 00:28:14,000  
all the time we have for today i feel

612  
00:28:18,630 --> 00:28:15,440  
like we could talk about this mission

613  
00:28:20,710 --> 00:28:18,640

all day adriana kathy and jessica thank

614

00:28:22,870 --> 00:28:20,720

you so much for joining us and for those

615

00:28:24,950 --> 00:28:22,880

tuning in thank you for watching and

616

00:28:27,669 --> 00:28:24,960

thank you for those great questions we

617

00:28:31,190 --> 00:28:27,679

are less than one year away from lucy's

618

00:28:34,310 --> 00:28:31,200

october 2021 launch date and be sure to

619

00:28:36,630 --> 00:28:34,320

visit [nasa.gov](http://nasa.gov) lucy to for more

620

00:28:38,389 --> 00:28:36,640

information about the mission and if you

621

00:28:40,630 --> 00:28:38,399

want to stay up to date on mission

622

00:28:43,269 --> 00:28:40,640

milestones and activities be sure to

623

00:28:45,990 --> 00:28:43,279

follow nasa's solar system on facebook

624

00:28:52,770 --> 00:28:46,000

twitter and instagram again thank you so