

DOES
NASA
KNOW ABOUT
ALL THE ASTEROIDS ?

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00:00:02,392 --> 00:00:05,187

Does NASA Know About All the Asteroids?

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00:00:08,606 --> 00:00:09,576

We Asked a NASA Scientist.

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Well, no. But the good news is we know where most of the really big ones

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that get closest to the Earth. We've found more than 90 percent of these.

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That's the great news. But there are a lot more smaller pieces that are still out there that we

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haven't found. It's really challenging to find asteroids and comets simply because

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even though some of them are as big as mountains, space is incredibly huge and these things can be

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really far away. In fact, we want to find them when they're very far away from the Earth so we have

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lots of time to take action if we ever find one that's really headed in our direction.

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Asteroids are both a source of fascination but sometimes fear because we wonder, can they hit the Earth?

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It's really incredibly unlikely that
a significant asteroid impact is going to occur

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in our lifetimes. However, that said, if even one
happens it could be really bad. And that's why

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we want to go out and look for these objects
and make sure that the Earth and an asteroid

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never get too close for comfort. So does NASA
know about all the asteroids? Well no, but we know

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what we have to do and we're on the job and we're
really glad to be part of team planetary defense.