

**IS NASA  
REALLY CRASHING  
A SPACECRAFT  
INTO AN ASTEROID ?**

1  
00:00:02,480 --> 00:00:05,440  
Is NASA Really Crashing a  
Spacecraft into an Asteroid?

2  
00:00:09,178 --> 00:00:10,880  
We Asked a NASA Scientist.

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00:00:10,880 --> 00:00:16,800  
Yes, NASA really is crashing a spacecraft into  
an asteroid. That spacecraft is DART, the Double

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00:00:16,800 --> 00:00:22,160  
Asteroid Redirection Test. Now, asteroids hit the  
Earth all of the time. Luckily, the ones that are

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00:00:22,160 --> 00:00:27,282  
big enough to cause widespread damage are pretty  
rare and none are expected in the near future.

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00:00:27,282 --> 00:00:33,680  
NASA and others are actively tracking asteroids,  
but also we haven't found all of them yet.

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00:00:33,680 --> 00:00:38,400  
So, it makes sense to do this first test  
to demonstrate if we needed to protect the

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00:00:38,400 --> 00:00:43,329  
Earth what might we do. And we should do this test  
before we need it. That's where DART comes in.

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00:00:43,329 --> 00:00:47,920  
DART is a spacecraft that's about the size of a vending  
machine. And it has really long solar arrays that

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00:00:47,920 --> 00:00:53,200  
stick out. And it's going to be traveling really  
fast — about 15,000 miles per hour. And it's going

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00:00:53,200 --> 00:00:58,800

to slam into this target asteroid that's about the size of the Great Pyramid. So, slamming this

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00:00:58,800 --> 00:01:04,800

smaller spacecraft into this larger asteroid isn't going to destroy it, but it will deflect it. It's going to

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00:01:04,800 --> 00:01:10,240

give it a small little nudge and that will ever so slightly change that asteroid's future path.

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00:01:10,240 --> 00:01:14,960

If you wanted to do this, you would want to do it years in advance such that the asteroid and the

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00:01:14,960 --> 00:01:21,040

Earth weren't on a collision course in the future. So, is NASA crashing a spacecraft into an asteroid?

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00:01:21,040 --> 00:01:27,097

Yes, NASA really is. In the name of planetary defense in order to be ready in case we need it.