

Asteroid, Comet, and Meteor Scavenger Hunt

- 1. Some of you have probably seen the movie Armageddon. The movie was about a group of miners that were sent into space to destroy a large asteroid that was heading towards Earth. What is an asteroid and how big or how small are they?**
- 2. Looking at the chart at the bottom of the website, what is the largest asteroid that we know of and how big is it?**
- 3. Most recently, people on Earth were able to see a comet up close as the Hale-Bopp comet passed close by Earth. What is a comet made out of?**
- 4. All of the planets are named after mythical beings. How did we get the name comet?**
- 5. Have we ever thought about launching missions to any comets? Yes we have. There are three current missions out there already. The names of the missions are Stardust, Rosetta, and Deep Impact. Stardust is going to bring samples from comet Wild 2 back to Earth in 2006. What material is it going to use to get the sample from the comet and what is so special about that material?**
- 6. You have looked up into the night sky and have seen a shooting star haven't you? That shooting star is actually a meteor. How big or small are meteors?**
- 7. When meteors rub against the Earth's atmosphere they heat up and that is what causes them to glow as they shoot by overhead. What do you call a Meteor that survives the heat of friction with our atmosphere to land on Earth? What are these objects made out of?**
- 8. Can asteroids run into the Earth? Yes they can and they have. There are asteroids in space that they call Near Earth Objects. These objects come close to or cross Earth's orbit making the chances of the Earth hitting them a possibility. There are three types of Near Earth Objects, what are they called?**
- 9. If there is an asteroid or object coming towards Earth, there is a warning system that has been put in place. The Torino Scale tells the public what type of impact to expect and what the likelihood of the impact is. Look at a 10 on the scale. What is the description for a 10?**
- 10. Are we planning any missions to an asteroid? We sure are! Japan has launched a mission that is going to bring back a sample of an asteroid for study. What is the name of the mission and what asteroid is the mission going to?**