

## Earth safe from asteroid hit for 100 years

29th March, 2021



Scientists from NASA have confirmed that asteroids will not be a danger to Earth for the next 100 years. This is good news for anyone who was worrying about the end of the world. NASA has been monitoring an asteroid called Apophis for 17 years. They discovered

the 335-metre space rock in 2004. They thought it could be a danger to our planet, so they put it on their list of the most hazardous asteroids that could threaten Earth. The scientists originally said the asteroid could kill over 10 million people if it hit Earth. They predicted it could hit our planet in 2029. They later changed this to 2068. However, their latest prediction is that Earth will be safe from Apophis for the next 100 years.

The scientists used radar to predict the asteroid's orbit around the sun. NASA scientist Marina Brozovic said: "We were able to acquire incredibly precise information about its distance to an accuracy of about 150 meters." She said the giant space rock is currently "a safe distance of 10.6 million miles away from Earth". However, Apophis will come closer in 2029. It will come within 20,000 miles of Earth on April the 13th in that year. Another scientist was glad Apophis is no longer a danger to us. He said: "There's a certain sense of satisfaction to see it removed from the risk list, and we're looking forward to the science we might uncover during its close approach to Earth in 2029."

Sources: [theguardian.com](http://theguardian.com) / [cnn.com](http://cnn.com) / [npr.org](http://npr.org)

### Writing

We should spend more money on defending Earth from asteroids. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

scientists / asteroids / good news / space / rock / hazardous / planet / prediction / radar / precise / information / distance / Earth / danger / satisfaction / approach

### True / False

- a) Scientists said an asteroid will hit Earth in 100 years from now. T / F
- b) Scientists started following an asteroid called Apophos 20 years ago. T / F
- c) The asteroid Apophos is on a hazardous asteroid list. T / F
- d) Scientists once thought Apophos could hit Earth in 2068. T / F
- e) Scientists used radar to track the sun's orbit around the asteroid. T / F
- f) Apophos is now 10.6 million miles from Earth. T / F
- g) The asteroid will come as close as 20,000 miles away in 2029. T / F
- h) A scientist is not satisfied the asteroid is not on the risk list. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                      |              |
|----------------------|--------------|
| 1. <b>danger</b>     | a. endanger  |
| 2. <b>monitoring</b> | b. feeling   |
| 3. <b>threaten</b>   | c. path      |
| 4. <b>predicted</b>  | d. watching  |
| 5. <b>safe</b>       | e. find      |
| 6. <b>orbit</b>      | f. hazard    |
| 7. <b>precise</b>    | g. presently |
| 8. <b>currently</b>  | h. forecast  |
| 9. <b>sense</b>      | i. accurate  |
| 10. <b>uncover</b>   | j. secure    |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you want to know about asteroids?
- c) What would happen if an asteroid hit Earth?
- d) What would you do if you knew an asteroid would hit Earth tomorrow?
- e) What is an asteroid?
- f) What three adjectives best describe this story?
- g) What science might scientists uncover from a passing asteroid?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the scientists?

## Phrase Match

- |                                 |                            |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. worrying about the end       | a. our planet in 2029      |
| 2. NASA has been monitoring     | b. 100 years               |
| 3. they put it on               | c. list                    |
| 4. They predicted it could hit  | d. information             |
| 5. for the next                 | e. their list              |
| 6. predict the asteroid's orbit | f. 10.6 million miles away |
| 7. incredibly precise           | g. of the world            |
| 8. a safe distance of           | h. of satisfaction         |
| 9. a certain sense              | i. an asteroid             |
| 10. removed from the risk       | j. around the sun          |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about asteroids?
- Why might an asteroid be dangerous?
- What might bring about the end of the world?
- What was the last good news you saw or read about?
- How interested are you in space?
- What would it be like to work for NASA?
- What are your predictions for 2029?
- How safe is our planet?

## Spelling

- Scientists from NASA have ncrodtime that
- NASA has been mntionrogi an asteroid
- They seddivrceo the 335-metre space rock
- the most suaohzdra asteroids
- The scientists iolgnarily said
- their latest ritcpioned
- the asteroid's oirtb around the sun
- incredibly sipceer information
- to an cucyacra of about 150 meters
- a safe ictsndae
- a certain sense of tssnfiicaato
- its close apohpacr to Earth in 2029

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. a	4. h	5. j
6. c	7. i	8. g	9. b	10. e

## Role Play

### Role A – Asteroid Strikes

You think asteroid strikes are the biggest danger to humans. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as dangerous. Also, tell the others which is the least dangerous of these (and why): global warming, pandemics or aliens.

### Role B – Global Warming

You think global warming is the biggest danger to humans. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as dangerous. Also, tell the others which is the least dangerous of these (and why): asteroid strikes, pandemics or aliens.

### Role C – Pandemics

You think pandemics are the biggest danger to humans. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as dangerous. Also, tell the others which is the least dangerous of these (and why): global warming, asteroid strikes or aliens.

### Role D – Aliens

You think aliens are the biggest danger to humans. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as dangerous. Also, tell the others which is the least dangerous of these (and why): global warming, pandemics or asteroid strikes.

## Speaking – Dangers

Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest dangers to people at the top at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| • Overpopulation | • Asteroid strikes |
| • Robots and AI  | • Global warming   |
| • Hunger         | • Nuclear war      |
| • Aliens         | • Pandemics        |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	F
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.