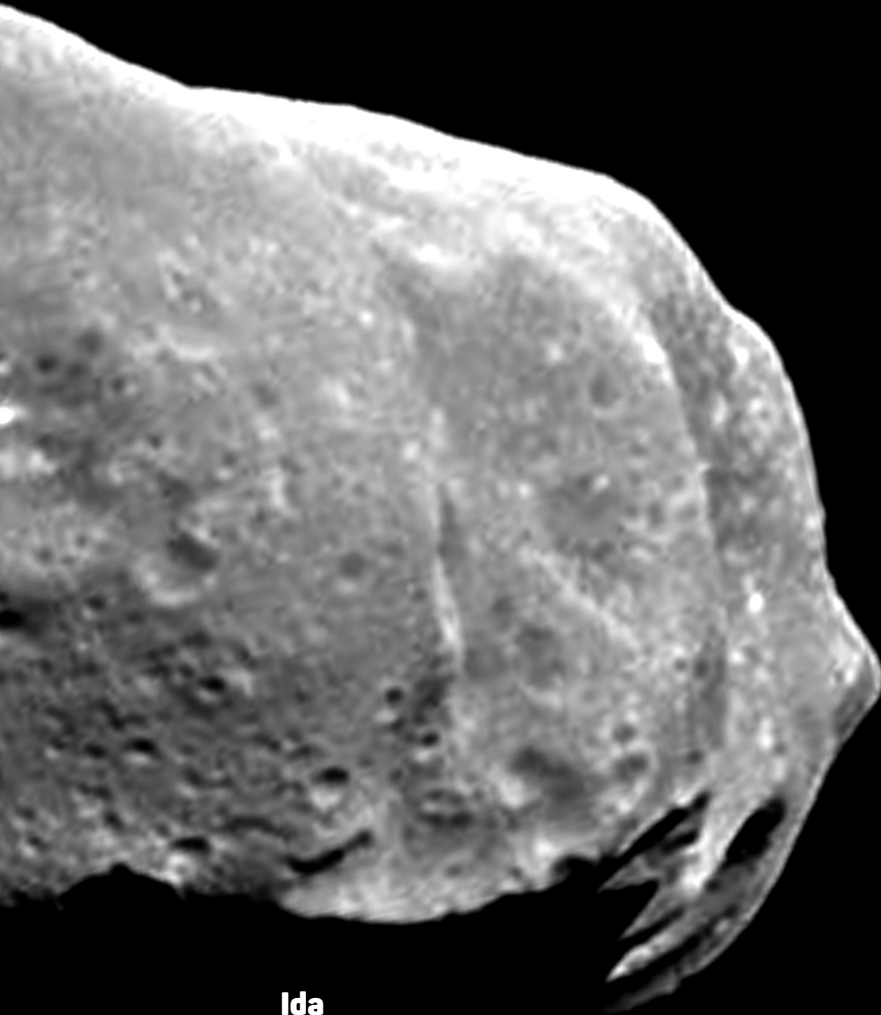


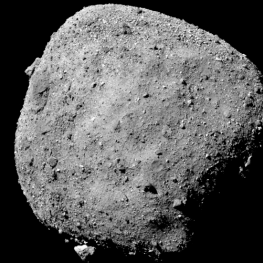
What is an Asteroid?

LEARN MORE:
solarsystem.nasa.gov/asteroids-comets-and-meteors/asteroids



Ida

60,000 m / 195,360 ft (37 mi)



Bennu

492 m / 1,614 ft



Itokawa

535 m / 1,755 ft

Asteroids are space objects that orbit the Sun but are much smaller than planets. They are leftover bits and pieces from the formation of the solar system. Scientists have counted about 800,000 asteroids so far—out of millions in our solar system—and found many different shapes and sizes. While asteroids are mostly made of rock, they can also contain metals and water ice. Most asteroids in the solar system can be found between Mars and Jupiter in a region called the *asteroid belt*.