



Asteroid 'God of Chaos' to Pass Near Earth in Three Years

Description

An asteroid called Apophis will pass near Earth in three years. This event is important because it gives scientists a chance to study this large space rock closely. Apophis will fly by Earth on April 13, 2029, and come within about 20,000 miles of the surface. This distance is closer than many satellites, which orbit about 22,000 miles away.

Scientists say Apophis is "a potentially hazardous asteroid," but NASA has assured everyone that it will not hit Earth during this close approach. After careful monitoring, experts believe there is no risk of an impact for at least 100 years.

People in the Eastern Hemisphere will have the chance to see Apophis with their own eyes, depending on the weather. Rarely does an asteroid this big come so close. NASA estimates that such events happen only once every few thousand years. This will be the first time Apophis will be closely observed with modern technology.

During its flyby, Earth's gravity might cause small changes on the asteroid's surface. Scientists think Apophis is made of materials from the early solar system that never formed into planets. Apophis is about 1,115 feet wide, similar to three football fields. It was first discovered in 2004 by astronomers in Arizona.

Vocabulary List:

1. **asteroid** /'æs.tə,rɔɪd// (noun): a small rocky body that moves in space
2. **hazardous** /'hæzədəs// (adjective): likely to cause harm or danger
3. **orbit** /'ɔrbɪt// (verb): to move around a planet or star
4. **monitoring** /'mɒnɪtərɪŋ// (noun): watching something carefully to notice changes
5. **impact** /'ɪmpækt// (noun): a sudden strong effect or collision
6. **gravity** /'grævɪti// (noun): the force that pulls objects toward each other

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. What is the date when Apophis will fly by Earth?



- Option: April 13, 2029
- Option: March 15, 2028
- Option: May 22, 2030
- Option: January 1, 2029

2. How far will Apophis come from the Earth's surface during its flyby?

- Option: 10,000 miles
- Option: 20,000 miles
- Option: 30,000 miles
- Option: 22,000 miles

3. How wide is Apophis?

- Option: 1,000 feet
- Option: 1,115 feet
- Option: 1,200 feet
- Option: 1,500 feet

4. In which year was Apophis first discovered?

- Option: 2000
- Option: 2004
- Option: 2010
- Option: 2015

5. What do scientists call Apophis?

- Option: A harmless rock
- Option: A potentially hazardous asteroid
- Option: A satellite
- Option: A comet

6. How often do close approaches of large asteroids happen, according to NASA?

- Option: Once a year
- Option: Once every few days
- Option: Once every few hundred years
- Option: Once every few thousand years

True-False

7. NASA believes that Apophis will hit Earth during its close approach.



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8. Apophis will pass Earth at a distance further than many satellites.
 9. The flyby of Apophis offers a rare opportunity to study the asteroid.
 10. Apophis is about the width of two football fields.
 11. Earth's gravity might affect the surface of Apophis during the flyby.
 12. People in the Western Hemisphere will be able to see Apophis clearly.

Gap-Fill

13. Apophis is estimated to come within _____ miles of the Earth's surface.
14. The flyby of Apophis will take place on April 13, _____
15. Apophis was first discovered in _____ by astronomers in Arizona.
16. Scientists consider Apophis to be a _____ hazardous asteroid.
17. Apophis is about _____ feet wide, which is similar to three football fields.
18. NASA estimates that large asteroid close approaches occur only once every _____ years.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. April 13, 2029 2. 20,000 miles 3. 1,115 feet 4. 2004 5. A potentially hazardous asteroid
6. Once every few thousand years

True-False: 7. False 8. False 9. True 10. False 11. True 12. False

Gap-Fill: 13. 20,000 14. 2029 15. 2004 16. potentially 17. 1,115 18. few thousand

CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL2

POST TAG

1. asteroid
2. close to Earth
3. ESL learning



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