



Asteroid Set to Fly Past Earth Soon

Description

An asteroid the size of one or two school buses will pass close to Earth on Monday. It will come within 91,593 kilometres (56,913 miles), which is about one-quarter of the distance to the moon. This event is significant because it gives scientists a chance to study asteroids that come near our planet.

Astronomers in Tucson, Arizona found this asteroid on May 10 and named it 2026JH2. It belongs to a group called Apollo asteroids, which can cross Earth's orbit around the Sun. At its closest point, this asteroid will be about 24% of the average distance to the moon.

Experts say 2026JH2 is not a threat. Richard Binzel, a professor at MIT, mentioned that such close passes happen often. He said that objects similar in size pass by our planet several times each year without causing harm.

The asteroid comes from the asteroid belt, located between Mars and Jupiter. A few small asteroids often travel close to Earth due to collisions in the asteroid belt. However, 2026JH2 will not enter our atmosphere and is not expected to pose any risk.

Astronomers currently do not know its exact size, which they estimate to be between 15 and 30 meters (49 to 98 feet). It will not be visible to the human eye but can be seen with small telescopes.

Vocabulary List:

1. **asteroid** //ˈæstərɔɪd// (noun): a small rocky object in space
2. **significant** //sɪg'nɪfɪkənt// (adjective): important or likely to have a big effect
3. **orbit** //ˈɔrbit// (noun): path an object follows around a planet
4. **collisions** //kə'lɪʒənz// (noun): times when two things crash into each other
5. **atmosphere** //ˈætməsfɪr// (noun): the layer of air around a planet
6. **estimate** //ˈestəˌmeɪt// (verb): give a number that is not exact

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice



1. What is the size of the asteroid 2026JH2 compared to?
 - Option: One or two school buses
 - Option: One or two cars
 - Option: One or two houses
 - Option: One or two office buildings

2. How far will the asteroid 2026JH2 pass from Earth?
 - Option: 91,593 kilometres
 - Option: 100,000 kilometres
 - Option: 50,000 kilometres
 - Option: 75,000 kilometres

3. What type of asteroid is 2026JH2 classified as?
 - Option: Apollo asteroids
 - Option: Amor asteroids
 - Option: Atira asteroids
 - Option: Belt asteroids

4. Who mentioned that close passes of asteroids happen often?
 - Option: Neil deGrasse Tyson
 - Option: Richard Binzel
 - Option: Carl Sagan
 - Option: Stephen Hawking

5. What is the estimated size range of the asteroid 2026JH2?
 - Option: 10 to 20 meters
 - Option: 15 to 30 meters
 - Option: 5 to 15 meters
 - Option: 20 to 40 meters

6. What is the asteroid 2026JH2 expected to do when it approaches Earth?
 - Option: Enter the atmosphere
 - Option: Cause harm
 - Option: Pass close by
 - Option: Be visible to the naked eye

True-False



7. The asteroid 2026JH2 will come within 100,000 kilometres of Earth.
8. Astronomers in Tucson, Arizona discovered the asteroid on May 10.
9. 2026JH2 poses a threat to Earth's safety.
10. The asteroid belt is located between Earth and Venus.
11. Objects similar in size to 2026JH2 pass by Earth several times each year.
12. 2026JH2 is expected to be visible to the human eye.

Gap-Fill

13. The asteroid 2026JH2 will come within _____ kilometres of Earth.
14. The asteroid 2026JH2 is classified as an _____ asteroid.
15. Experts believe that 2026JH2 will not pose any _____ to Earth.
16. The asteroid is estimated to be between _____ and 30 meters in size.
17. The asteroid belt is located between Mars and _____.
18. Astronomers currently do not know the exact _____ of 2026JH2.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. One or two school buses 2. 91,593 kilometres 3. Apollo asteroids 4. Richard Binzel 5. 15 to 30 meters 6. Pass close by

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

Gap-Fill: 13. 91,593 14. Apollo 15. risk 16. 15 17. Jupiter 18. size

CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL2

POST TAG

1. asteroid
2. Earth



3. ESL learning
4. esl news
5. Level 2
6. space

Tags

1. asteroid
2. Earth
3. ESL learning
4. esl news
5. Level 2
6. space

Date Created

2026/05/19

Author

aimeeyoung99

ESL-NEWS.COM