

# KNOW YOUR SPACE ROCKS:

## Asteroids -

Asteroids vary wildly in size with some asteroids like Ceres, that are big enough to be labeled a dwarf planet, while others like 2015 TC25 are only six feet. Many asteroids are relics from the creation of the solar system and can be in the asteroid belt (between Mars and Jupiter).

Asteroids can carry important elements for future space travel like water, cobalt, and even gold and platinum.



Asteroid 2014 QJ33



Comet 17P/Holmes

## Comets -

Comets are smaller than asteroids and are composed of ice, dust, and rock. Like asteroids, comets are remnants of the early solar system. When comets get close to sun, the heat from the sun causes the comet to release gases (also known as outgassing). This process is what creates the famous comet tail.

## Meteoroids -

Meteoroids are rocks that are found in space. They are smaller than asteroids and depending on its location (space, atmosphere, land) the classification name will change.

- **Meteors -**

Meteors are meteoroids that are burning through the atmosphere. It is during this process that they become the famous "shooting stars" that light up the sky.

- **Meteorite -**

Once a meteoroid lands on the ground it becomes a meteorite.

