

Vidya Bhawan Balika Vidyapith, LKR.

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Ch1-The Planet Earth

Asteroids

Asteroids are small, rocky, airless fragments that orbit our Sun, but are too small to be called planets . Asteroids that pass close to the Earth are called North Earth objects.

Between the orbits of Mars & Jupiter, there lies a belt of broken pieces of rock or planet like bodies called asteroids. This space is called Asteroids belt.

The largest asteroid is **Ceres, which has the equatorial radius of 490 km and is also considered dwarf planet.**

Celestial bodies that move around the planets are called satellites while Moon is the only satellite of the Earth, other planets hve more number of satellites–Jupiter (62), Saturn (56), Uranus (27), Nepture (13), and Mars (2).

Like the planets, the satellites have no light of their own, and they too reflect the light they receive from the Sun.

Today, man-made satellites are being launched into space to study weather conditions, develop telecommunications, take photographs and map large areas of the Earth and conduct experiments in space.

nd the eight planets revolving around it

Meteoroids, Meteors, and Meteorites

Chunks of rocky space debris hurtling through space and orbiting the Sun are known as **meteoroids**.

Meteors are the smaller pieces of rocky material that burn when they enter the Earth's atmosphere from space. They can be seen as bright streaks of light flashing across the sky, and hence are known as shooting stars.

Many larger fragments of rock complete the journey to the Earth's surface without being destroyed. These are known as **meteorites**

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