

References and Further Reading

Chapter 3: Near-Earth Objects

This chapter is a bit unusual for earth science textbooks but we felt the potential threat of an asteroid or comet impact was worth a closer look. We start the chapter with the story of the Peekskill meteorite. You can see the car and meteorite of the story at an archived page of NASA's Astronomy Picture of the Day site

(<http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/ap021118.html>). The potential of an NEO impact is reviewed at NASA's Asteroid and Comet Impact Hazards site which also contains lists of NEOs that will come close to Earth as well as all the frequently asked questions about NEOs (<http://impact.arc.nasa.gov/>).

The characteristics of asteroids and comets and their orbits are discussed thoroughly at several sites. Armagh Observatory in Northern Ireland has a wonderful site with lots of information and maps on the locations of NEOs (<http://star.arm.ac.uk/impact-hazard/>).

We again recommend Calvin Hamilton's Views of the Solar System site

(www.solarviews.com) and NASA's Solar System Exploration site

(<http://solarsystem.nasa.gov/>), as well as Bill Arnett's excellent Nine Planets site

(<http://www.nineplanets.org/>) for those interested in an introduction to these topics.

Impact features are nicely described in R.A.F. Grieve's article, Impact Cratering on the Earth (Scientific American, 1990, v. 262, p.66-73). Also you should look at information on Impact Craters and meteorites at the Lunar and Planetary Laboratory, University of

Arizona's Space Imagery Center (<http://www.lpl.arizona.edu/SIC/>), especially their pages on the Chicxulub event. We learned a lot about the effects of the Chicxulub impact from an article, Impact Events and their Effect on the Origin, Evolution, and Distribution of life, by David A. Kring (GSA Today, 2000, v. 10, #8, p.1-7).

Finally, many of the sites above discuss the risks of future impacts but you can learn more at NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab's NEO program site (<http://neo.jpl.nasa.gov/>), including descriptions and links to NEO search programs.