

Near-Earth Objects – assessing the threat

Space experts attending the second Planetary Defense Conference will be examining our ability to detect, track and deflect Near-Earth Objects (NEOs) – asteroids and comets that could possibly impact Earth – as part of an international effort to lessen the risk of devastating cosmic collision

NEO SIZES

Diameter
over
10m



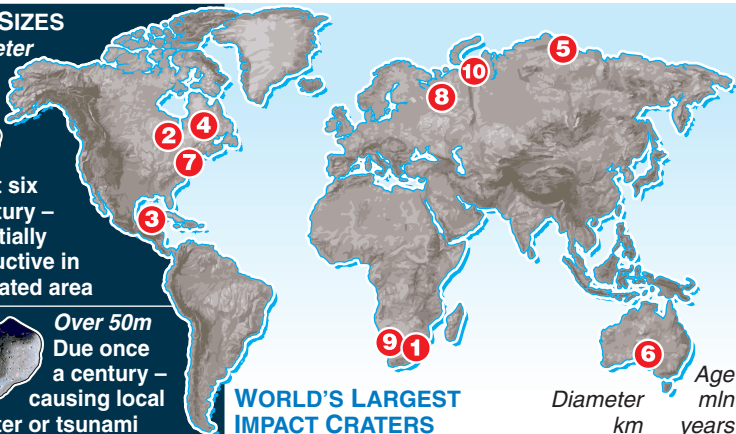
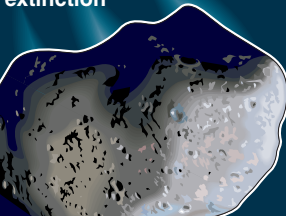
About six
a century –
potentially
destructive in
populated area



Over 50m
Due once
a century –
causing local
disaster or tsunami

Over 1km

Expected to impact Earth
once every few hundred
thousand years – causing
global disaster and mass
extinction



WORLD'S LARGEST IMPACT CRATERS

			Diameter km	Age mln years
1	Vredefort	South Africa	300	2,023
2	Sudbury	Canada	250	1,850
3	Chicxulub	Mexico	170	65
4	Manicouagan	Canada	100	214
5	Popigai	Russia	100	35
6	Acraman	Australia	90	590
7	Chesapeake Bay	U.S.	85	35
8	Puchezh-Katunki	Russia	80	167
9	Morokweng	South Africa	70	145
10	Kara	Russia	65	70

Sources: Earth Impact Database, NASA

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