

Case Details

Case Title:

Fire in the sky

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Date Published:

9/6/2008

Grade Level(s):

Middle School

Subject(s):

Earth Science

Summary:

A Near-Earth Object (NEO) has recently been sighted and is on a path to possibly collide with the Earth. NASA has sent an urgent letter to an expert space research team asking for their help in determining the effects of a collision and the ability of other planets in our solar system to support life. The research team needs to provide the President of the United States with information on the effects of the event and a plan so that the President can address the American public.

Suggested Citation:

Sheehan, E., & Ford, A. L. (2008). *Fire in the sky*. Retrieved June 03, 2012 from Emory University, CASES Online Web site:
http://www.cse.emory.edu/cases/casedisplay.cfm?case_id=731

Learning Objectives:

1. Differentiate between types of "Near-Earth objects", including: comets, asteroids, and meteors.
2. Define mass extinction.
3. Describe past theories of mass extinction created by an object colliding with the Earth.
4. Identify other planets in the solar system and their characteristics.
5. Distinguish between inner and outer planets.
6. Prepare an organized presentation on both "Near-Earth objects" and the solar system.

National/State Standards:

Georgia Performance Standards

S6CS1. Students will explore the importance of curiosity, honesty, openness, and skepticism in science and will exhibit these traits in their own efforts to understand how the world works. (NSES Content Standard A)

S6CS9. Students will investigate the features of the process of scientific inquiry.

S6E1. Students will explore current scientific views of the universe and how those views evolved. (NSES Content Standard D) c. Compare and contrast the planets in terms of: Size relative to the Earth, Surface and atmospheric features, Relative distance from the sun, Ability to support life f. Describe the characteristics of comets, asteroids, and meteors.