

Asteroid to whizz past Earth

A large asteroid with the destructive power of an H-bomb is fast approaching the Earth. Although it poses no danger of collision, the space rock will pass closer to our planet than many commercial satellites

Moon's Orbit

Belt of geosynchronous satellites that provide weather data and telecommunications

All times GMT

21:00

Earth

Feb 15: Asteroid passes closest to Earth at 19:26GMT at distance of around 27,000km. Moon is 384,400km from Earth

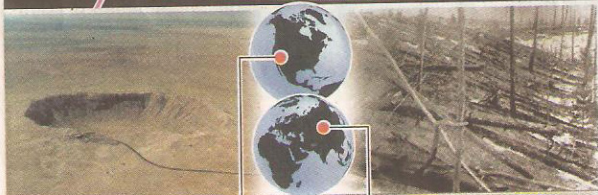
Asteroid 2012 DA14

Diameter: 45m (est.)

Weight: 130,000 tonnes

18:00

Asteroid made of stone rather than metal or ice. Bright enough to be visible with binoculars, mostly in Eastern Europe, Asia and Australia



Meteor Crater, Arizona: 1,200m across and 170m deep. Formed when object roughly 50m across hit Earth 50,000 years ago

Tunguska, Russia: Asteroid similar in size to 2012 DA14 exploded in atmosphere above Siberia in 1908, flattening 2,000 sq km of forest