ASTEROIDS

Date:_____

Name:_____

Class:_____

1 **How many asteroids do scientists believe exist in the solar system?**

A Between 10,000 and 50,000

B Between 500,000 and 750,000

C Between 750,000 and 1 million

D More than 1 million

2 **If you wanted to find an asteroid with a telescope, where would be the best place to look?**

A Between Mars and Jupiter

B Between Earth and Venus

C Between Jupiter and Saturn

D Between Mercury and Venus

3 **In the phrase "Most asteroids are irregular in shape," what is the best synonym for "irregular"?**

A Lopsided

B Polygonal

C Spherical

D Similar

4 **What do asteroids have in common with Earth?**

A They have oxygen-rich atmospheres

B They rotate around a central axis

C Many of them contain liquid water

D They're made mostly of magnesium

5  **How old are asteroids compared to the rest of the solar system?**

A They're much older than the rest of the solar system

B They're older than the sun, but younger than the planets

C They're about the same age as the rest of the solar system

D They're much younger than the rest of the solar system

6 **Which of these terms describes the makeup of most asteroids?**

A Rocky

B Gaseous

C Liquid

D Metallic

7  **What's the main reason that scientists study asteroids?**

A Because there is a good chance they may destroy the planet

B Because they may provide a good source of water in the future

C Because they contain rare elements not found on Earth

D To better understand of the origins of the solar system

8  **Why do asteroids burn up as they enter Earth's atmosphere?**

A The oxygen trapped inside them ignites in the presence of nitrogen

B Because they are covered in an extremely flammable material

C Heat is created by friction between the asteroid and the atmosphere

D The sun's UV rays ignite them when they pass through the ozone layer

9 **What is the difference between a meteor and a meteorite?**

A Meteors burn up in the earth's atmosphere; meteorites strike the earth

B Meteors are found throughout the solar system; meteorites are found only in the asteroid belt

C Meteors are similar to comets; meteorites are similar to dwarf planets

D Meteors are much larger than meteorites

10 **How is Ceres different from all the other asteroids in the solar system?**

A It has a satellite revolving around it

B It rotates on its axis

C It revolves around the sun

D It's much larger than all other asteroids