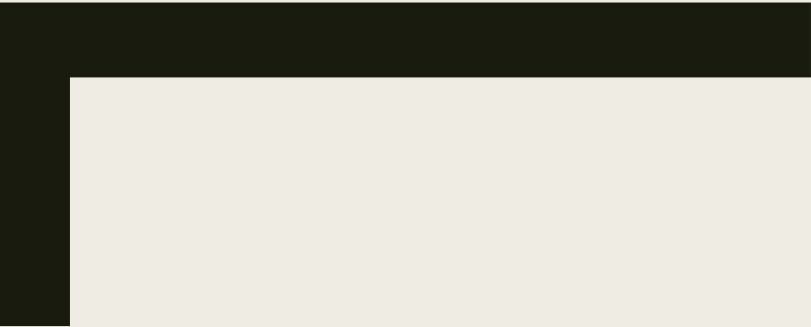
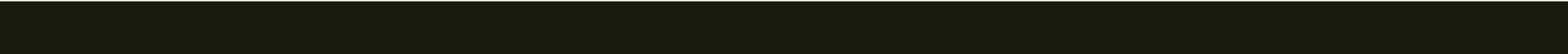
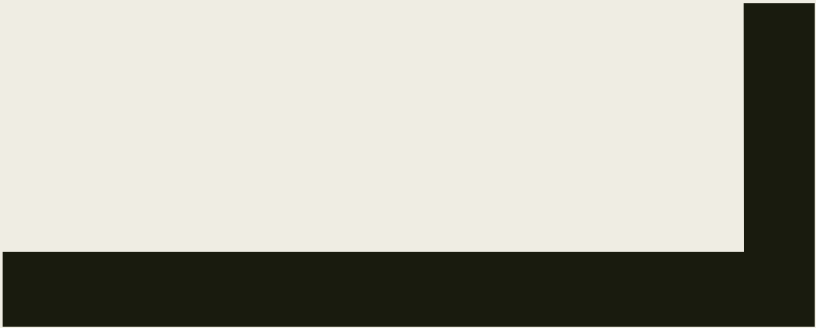




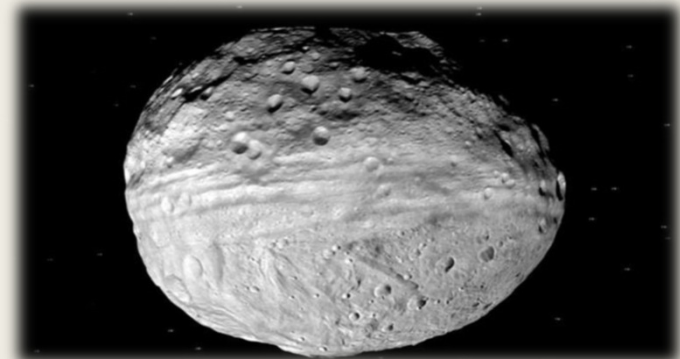
PLANETOIDS

Teemu, Inka



Definitions

- Celestial object in direct orbit around a star that is **neither a planet nor a comet**
- Often referred to as **minor planets**
- Not to be confused with dwarf planets (subcategory)
- Planetoids can be for instance:
 - *Asteroids*
 - *Dwarf planets*
 - *Trojans*
 - *Centaur*s



Dwarf planet

Large planetoid e.g. Pluto

Their self-gravity is sufficient to achieve hydrostatic balance and form an **ellipsoidal shape**

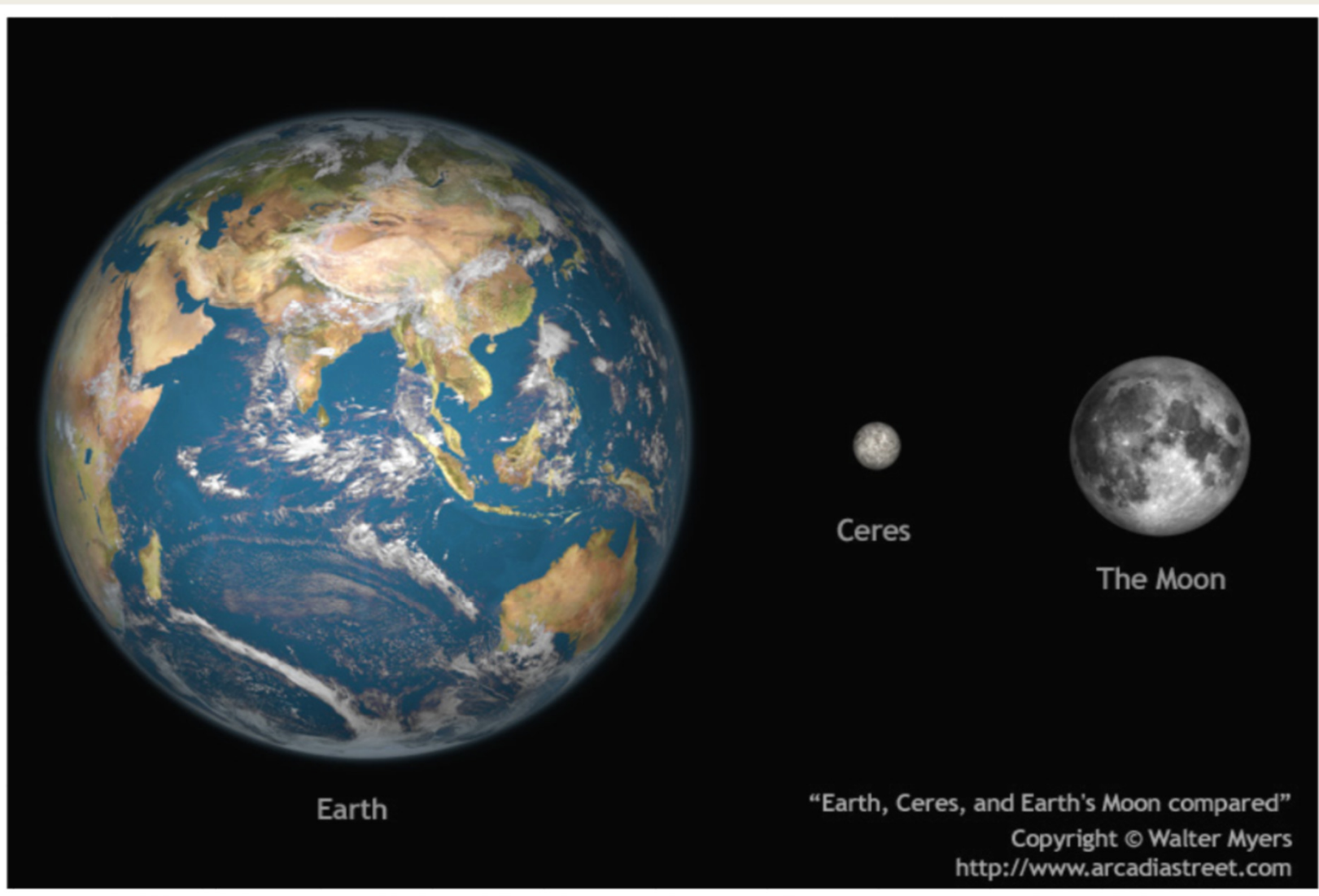
International astronomical union recognizes five dwarf planets

Asteroids

Minor planets, mainly in the inner Solar System

Composed mainly of mineral and rock

Diameter greater than one meter



Earth

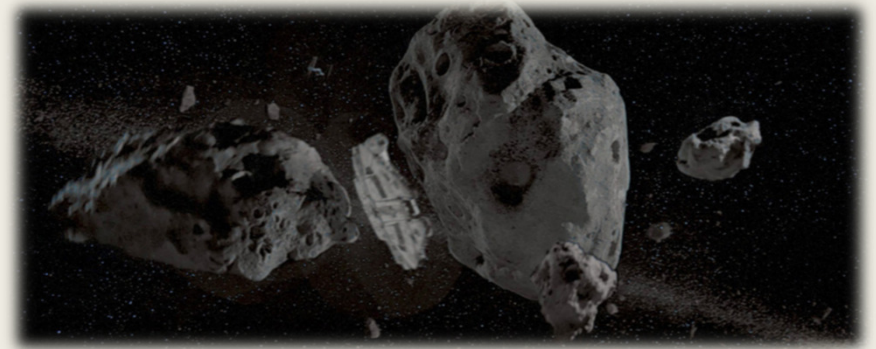
Ceres

The Moon

“Earth, Ceres, and Earth's Moon compared”

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<http://www.arcadiastreet.com>

Naming the planetoids



Many planetoids share identical names

The first few planetoids were named after figures from Greek and Roman mythology, but in recent years there have been planetoids named even after television characters

Unlike comets, minor planets may not be named after the discoverer(s)

Minor planets are mainly named after female names

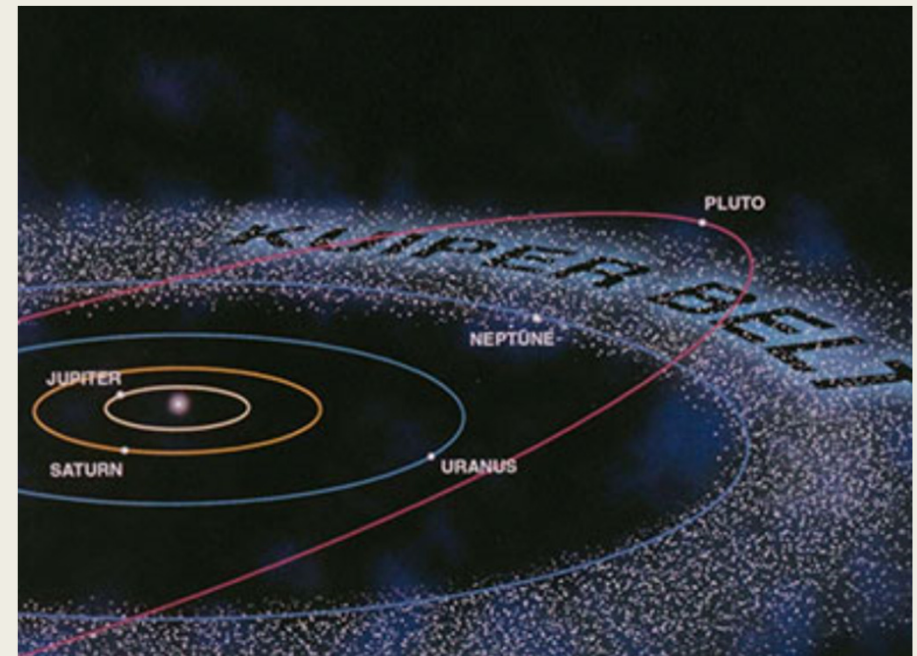
Discovering planetoids

- The first **planetoids** were discovered in 1801. Until 1977 almost all the planetoids around Jupiter were discovered.
- Later on astronomers started to explore planetoids farther out and found **Kuiper Belt** which is a space region filled with **celestial bodies**.
- The astronomers defined the size of planetoids from ten meters to hundreds of kilometers. They think that planetoids consist **rock, ice** and different **metals**.



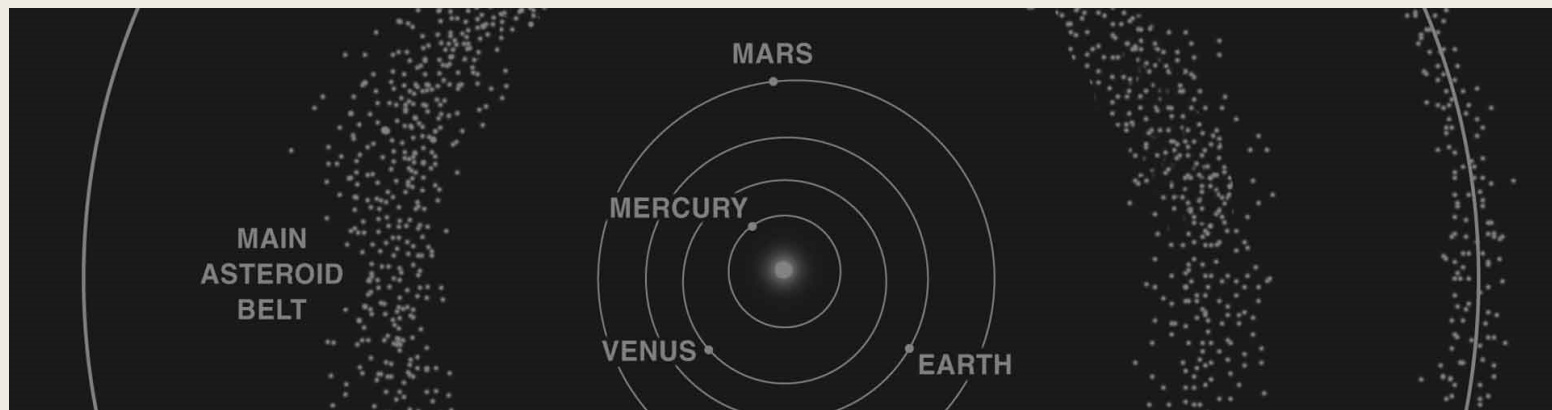
The Kuiper Belt

- The Kuiper Belt was found in the late 1900's. It contains around trillion icy celestial bodies.
- It's located beyond the **orbit of Neptune** in shape of a doughnut.
- All the short-period **comets** originate from the Kuiper Belt.
- **New Horizons** is the first mission to explore the Kuiper Belt. The spacecraft flew past Pluto in 2015.



The asteroid belt between Mars & Jupiter

- Also called "the main asteroid belt" or "the main belt".
- Most of the planetoids are located in the huge asteroid belt which situates between Mars and Jupiter.
- It contains millions of planetoids and other objects. All together they have a mass of only around 4% of the Moon's mass.



hello there

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OKuxqfnDwGg>

Sources

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