

Asteroid Vesta

Vesta was discovered in 1807 and is the brightest asteroid visible from Earth. It orbits the Sun from the asteroid belt, located between Mars and Jupiter. Asteroids are smaller than planets, have irregular shapes and are too small to retain an atmosphere. Vesta is 326 miles (525 km in diameter). Craters of different sizes cover the asteroid's surface. This close-up image of Vesta was taken in July 2011 by NASA's Dawn spacecraft.

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