

# What's Up in the Night Sky for JULY



Presented by

Night Sky July 2024 Events | Planetary Alignment  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bSaqoP7PCMw>

Tonight's Sky: July  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DhxgdO5w2IE>

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## 10 AMAZING ASTEROID FACTS

I'm not sure if you are aware of this, but June 30<sup>th</sup> is International Asteroid Day. Therefore, the facts this month relate to those irregular shaped objects in our solar system.

1. Asteroids are small, rocky solar system bodies that populate interplanetary space out to the orbit of Jupiter.
2. There are millions of asteroids, often grouped by their composition.
3. Asteroids are mainly made of materials left over from the formation of the inner solar system.
4. Most asteroids orbit the Sun between Mars and Jupiter.
5. Asteroids come in three composition classes: C-types (chondrites) are made of clay and silicate rocks; S-types are the so-called "stony" asteroids and are made mostly of silicate rocks and nickel-iron mixtures; M-types are metallic nickel-iron. Some asteroids also contain water.

6. Most asteroids are irregular in shape because they are too small to exert enough gravitational pull to become spherical in shape.
7. An asteroid impact some 65 million years ago contributed to the extinction of the dinosaurs.
8. Some asteroids have moons of their own.
9. The first asteroid was Ceres, discovered by Giuseppe Piazzi in 1801. As well as being the first asteroid discovered, Ceres is also the largest known asteroid at 933 kilometers (580 miles) across.
10. The smallest known asteroid, 1991 BA, is only 6 meters (20 feet) across.

This list is by no means exhaustive. A more comprehensive list will soon be available and will be included in my 'Cosmic Tidbit Facts' series. Speaking of this series, in the next few days, the 'Solar System Cosmic Tidbit Facts' will be available for purchase as separate documents. These documents, totaling 10, will cover the general solar system, the Sun and the eight planets. They will also be available as a bundled package. Both this series and the educational guides are available as digital downloads. As soon as these are published and uploaded to my website store, I will send a notification.



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