Asteroids Impact Earth

Imagine a large asteroid collided with Earth! What would happen? The earth got hit by many asteroids of different sizes in its history. Some of them changed the Earth entirely and others just caused tiny damages. Asteroids of different sizes have struck the Earth before and may strike us again in the future. We need to stay alert of these potential threats.

Around three billion years ago, an asteroid almost ten miles across hit the Earth. Back in those days, there were only micro-organisms on Earth. Although the asteroid didn’t wipe out many species, it caused massive damage to the Earth. It created a tsunami one thousand feet tall and huge earthquakes caused volcanic eruptions all over the planet.

Another larger asteroid impacted the Earth 65 million years ago at the end of the Cretaceous period when the dinosaurs dominated the world. That asteroid had a diameter of seven miles. As it got closer, the Earth’s gravity began to make it accelerate, adding its speed to more than 70,000 kilometers per hour. It whizzed past the Pacific ocean in a fraction of four minutes, heading toward the Gulf of Mexico. As it entered our atmosphere, friction turned it into a fireball. The burning asteroid heated the air around it into 300 degrees celsius. Finally that large asteroid slammed into the Earth. At that very moment, it created tremendous heat and vaporized an area with a radius of 1,600 kilometers. Ani mals living in that area were immediately burned alive. The collision created a tsunami a few hundred feet tall. A series of earthquakes soon spreaded around the planet. The explosion ejected a huge mushroom cloud into our atmosphere. After a while the mushroom cloud turned into a giant black blanket which blocked out the sun. The darkness dominated the planet for three years. All the plants eventually died and all the dinosaurs starved to death.

Scientists predict asteroids large enough to wipe us all out hit the Earth once every 150 million years. Besides, smaller asteroids that hit the planet more frequently could destroy cities, even small states. We should be prepared for the potential threats. We could avoid an impact from a small asteroid by changing its trajectory. However, if an enormous asteroid is heading towards Earth, we might have to fly off into space and come back when the planet cools down.

Scientists have accumulated a lot of knowledge about the asteroid impacts. They are carefully keeping track of the trajectories of the potential threats and preparing for the possible impacts. I believe that we will be able to deal with it when it comes.