

## Nova Video Questions: *Doomsday Asteroid*

Earth Science/Geology

Mr. Traeger

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Answer the questions that follow. They are in chronological order with the video. They are worth ½ point each, 12 points total. I **will** be grading this! The video is 55 minutes long.

1. When and where was the last asteroid impact on Earth?
  
2. What are comets? How are they formed?
  
3. What are asteroids? How are they formed?
  
4. Where is the asteroid belt? It is between what two planets?
  
5. Where are comets found within the solar system?
  
6. What is the difference between asteroids and meteoroids? Look on page 604 in your book.
  
7. What happens to meteoroids as they enter Earth's atmosphere? Tell me how meteoroids become meteorites, which are the actual objects that strike the surface of the Earth.
  
8. What causes meteors, also known as shooting stars? Where does the light come from?
  
9. How did early people on the Earth, including the Chinese, describe the origin of asteroids?
  
10. What is uniformitarianism? How does it compare to catastrophism?
  
11. What was found at Meteor Crater, Arizona? What did we learn from it? Have you been there?
  
12. What causes impact craters to be erased from the landscape here on Earth?
  
13. Where and what is the Oort Cloud?

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14. Where and what is the Kuiper Belt?
  
15. What chemical element was found that is common to asteroid meteorites? Hint: Atomic # 77.
  
16. What is one explanation for the extinction of the dinosaurs 65 million years ago?
  
17. What are other explanations for the extinction of the dinosaurs 65 million years ago?
  
18. How strong are asteroid impacts? Compare to the strength of nuclear weapons.
  
19. Where in the world did we find the evidence of the asteroid impact that could have caused the extinction of the dinosaurs? *Hint: Se habla Español* alla.
  
20. What could happen to us (the human race) if an asteroid the size that is thought to have possibly killed the dinosaurs were to impact the Earth?
  
21. Who is responsible for tracking asteroids that might have a chance of hitting Earth?
  
22. Can we defend ourselves against an incoming asteroid?
  
23. How might we be able to divert an asteroid from hitting Earth? Would this option be better than letting the asteroid run its course and hoping it doesn't hit us?
  
24. What was observed on the face of Jupiter in 1994?