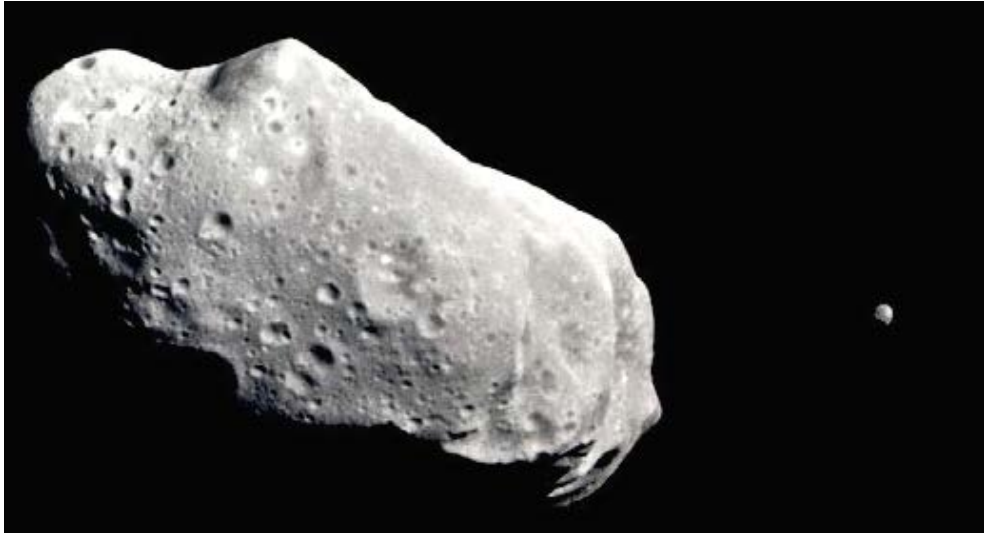
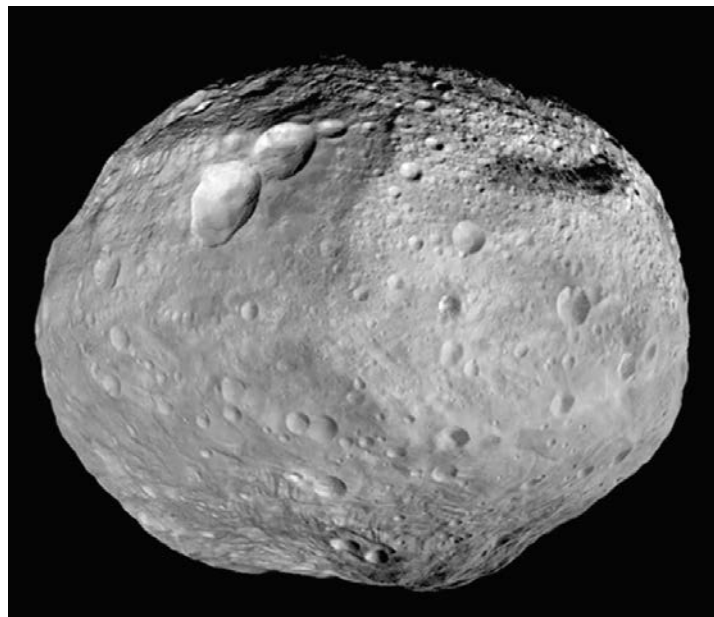


# MOST METEORITES ARE PIECES OF ASTEROIDS THAT CONTAIN MATTER LARGELY UNCHANGED SINCE OUR SOLAR SYSTEM WAS FORMING



NASA's Galileo spacecraft to Jupiter was about 2,100 miles from the asteroid *Ida*, in the main Asteroid Belt (rocks that never formed into a planet) between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter. The space craft made the photograph (above) in August 1993. The greatest discovery from this Galileo fly-by was that *Ida* (36 miles by 14 miles) **has a moon**, now named *Dactyl* (less than a mile in diameter), however the moon wasn't actually discovered until February 1994 when images stored on board Galileo were finally transmitted to Earth. *Dactyl* is the first natural satellite of an asteroid ever discovered and photographed. Asteroids sometimes smash into each other and break apart causing fragments to fly away in different directions, some even eventually falling to Earth.



NASA's *Dawn* spacecraft is the first to attempt orbits around two different bodies out in space: at the brightest asteroid, *Vesta* (326 mile diameter), 2011, where the above photograph was taken and then at the largest asteroid, *Ceres* (590 miles wide) in 2015. **One meteorite specimen in the *Space Rocks* study collection is a fragment of asteroid *Vesta*.**