

**30 June 2024**



(Picture credits: *ESA*)

## ***Asteroid Day***

**Space agency/country:** Worldwide

*Asteroid Day* was established in 2016 by the United Nations. On this occasion United Nations' scientists hope to engender awareness as to the non-negligible possibility of a large asteroid hitting the Earth, thus threatening the survival of humankind. By organising events globally, organisers aim to create awareness of the risks and dangers of large asteroid impacts. (Asteroid impacts happen quite often, although in most instances the asteroid becomes a largely harmless meteorite as soon as it enters the Earth's orbit.) This day was selected as *Asteroid Day* to mark the Tunguska explosion which occurred in Siberia on 30 June 1908. Many scientists attribute the impact of a comet or a large meteorite as the cause of the explosion; it has been estimated as the largest asteroid impact on Earth in recorded history.

### **For more information:**

<https://www.space.com/asteroid-day-2022-planetary-defense-webcast>

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/asteroid-day>