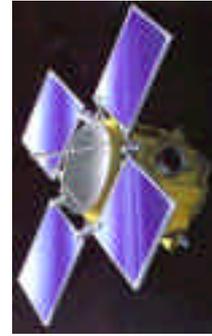


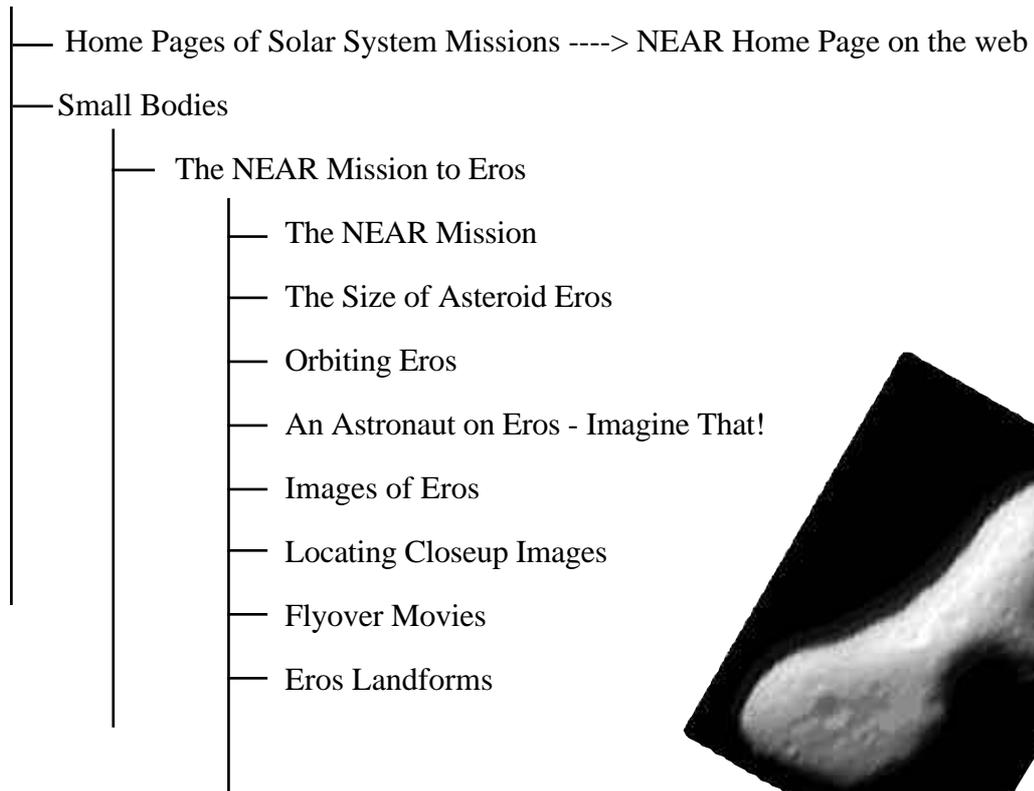
The NEAR Shoemaker Mission to Eros

Information Sources and Questions



Map of information sources (Intranet or CD-ROM)

Solar System



Questions

NEAR

What does the acronym NEAR stand for?
When was NEAR launched?
What places did NEAR pass on the way to Eros?
When did NEAR go into orbit around Eros?
When will the NEAR mission finish?
How do mission controllers communicate with NEAR?

Observing Asteroids

Why don't we study asteroids from Earth?

Which are the asteroids that have been "explored" via spacecraft flybys?

NEAR is the first spacecraft to orbit an asteroid. It will continue to study Eros for at least a year. What are the advantages of gathering data over an extended period?

NEAR mission scientists hope to answer some fundamental questions about asteroids, meteorites and the evolution of the solar system. What are some of those questions?

Eros

If Eros could be lowered to Earth near Bendigo, how much space would it take up?
What shape is Eros?
What is it made of?
What does its surface look like?
What seasons does it have?
What is the "weather" like on Eros?
What would it be like to move around on Eros?
Could people live on Eros? Could a space colony be set up there?