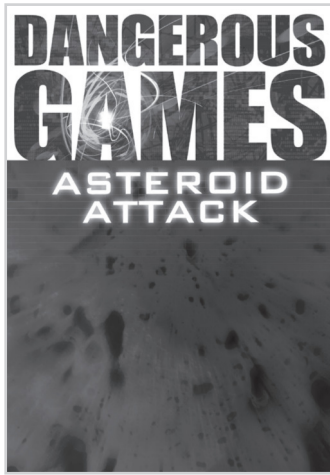


# ASTEROID ATTACK



## Story summary

Sima, Tom and Kojo have a day off work and visit an observatory, where they are given a tour by Professor Giles. He shows them a huge telescope which he uses to watch out for asteroids, particularly those that might crash into Earth and end the world as we know it.

Kojo expresses a desire to travel in space, so Professor Giles takes the three of them to a theatre where they watch a film through 3D glasses. The experience triggers an idea in Tom for a new computer game, where players travel through space towards Earth, avoiding comets and asteroids on the way.

Sima gets to work designing the game. Tom suggests that they test it for real, so once Kojo has finished the programming the three friends enter the game world. Sima has designed spacesuits for them to wear, with rocket packs strapped to their backs to propel them through space. They are also equipped with missile-firing weapons to blast any asteroids they come across.

At first, everything goes well and they blast through a string of asteroids blocking their route to Earth. However, Kojo loses his weapon in the explosion. Then, just as they are returning to Earth, a huge asteroid comes into view. Kojo realises that this is not part of the game, but an asteroid of the kind Professor Giles told them about – one that could wipe out the world! Sima is all for blasting the asteroid with their remaining missiles, but Kojo thinks that this could push the asteroid even faster towards Earth. Instead he suggests that they aim their missiles at one side of the asteroid in the hope that this will knock it off course and send it back into space.

Tom and Sima fire their missiles and the operation is a success – game over! Back in the office they are confronted by Chris Wilson, their boss. He is baffled to find them dressed in spacesuits. Tom tells him they are dressed up for a fancy dress party ... and luckily, Chris Wilson appears to believe them!

## Difficult words or phrases

### Chapter 1

observatory (page 3); telescope (page 4); tracking dangers from space (page 4); asteroid (page 4); 3D glasses (page 8); meteor shower (page 8)

### Chapter 2

wipe out all human life (page 12)

### Chapter 3

weapon (page 19); sights (page 19); missile (page 19); direct hit (page 20); expanded (page 24); force of the explosion (page 28); I've had it! (page 28)

### Chapter 4

the force of the missiles might change the direction of the asteroid (page 34)

## Questions to interrogate the text

- Why do you think Professor Giles looked out for asteroids in particular?
- Why might the 3D glasses have made Sima feel sick?
- Many scientists think that an asteroid hit the Earth long ago, wiping out the dinosaurs. How big do you imagine this asteroid was?
- Why didn't Kojo's weapon fall to Earth when he dropped it in space?

## Role-play/drama suggestion

Three pupils take the parts of Sima, Kojo and Tom, picking up the story at the point at which they are aiming their missiles at the giant asteroid to send it back into space. However, in this version of events they are unsuccessful. Role-play what they witness as the asteroid hits Earth. How do they feel? What do they do?

## Answers to the copymaster sheets

### Copymaster 1: Tricky words

telescope; Professor Giles; weapon; explosion; asteroid; spacesuit; Earth; Chris Wilson

### Copymaster 2: Fill in the missing words

space, asteroid, missiles, Earth, world, idea, fire, side, direction, spun

# Tricky words

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

1. Look at the picture clues. Sort the letters to spell the words.

poceltese



fssroPero siGle



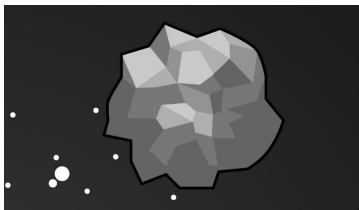
epwano



noplexosi



oreidtsa



acespiuts



rhtEa



sriCh lisnoW



2. Extension work

Choose four of the words and use them in sentences. Write your sentences here.

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# Fill in the missing words

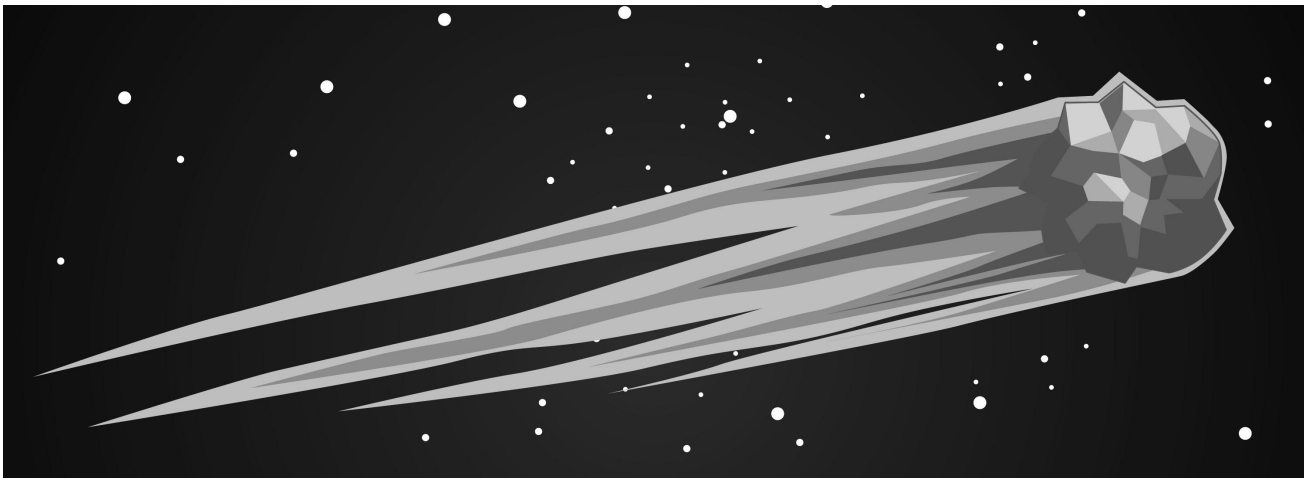
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Fill in the gaps in the text below using words from the box. You can find the answers in Chapters 3 to 5 of the story (pages 18 to 41).

Earth direction fire missiles world  
space side spun asteroid idea

Sima, Kojo and Tom went into \_\_\_\_\_. They each had a weapon called an \_\_\_\_\_ blaster. They used these to fire \_\_\_\_\_ at asteroids.

Tom saw a huge asteroid heading for \_\_\_\_\_. It was about to cause the end of the \_\_\_\_\_. Then Kojo had a good \_\_\_\_\_. He told Tom and Sima to \_\_\_\_\_ their last three missiles at one \_\_\_\_\_ of the asteroid only. This made the asteroid change \_\_\_\_\_. It \_\_\_\_\_ away, out into space. The world was safe once more.



## 2. Extension work

Sima keeps a diary about the games she designs. Write her diary entry describing what happened in this game. Don't write more than 100 words.