

What is DART?

The DART spacecraft will crash into asteroid Dimorphos to change its speed and trajectory. As part of NASA's Planetary Defense program, the mission is demonstrating technology that could be used to protect Earth from a dangerous asteroid collision in the future.



Why Planetary Defense?

DART is the first planetary defense test mission. Planetary defense encompasses the capabilities needed to address the potential impact of near-Earth objects, which includes asteroids and comets that come within 30 million miles of Earth's orbit.

Dimorphos is not a danger to Earth but was chosen because its size is similar to an asteroid that could pose a threat to Earth, and its proximity to Earth makes it possible for telescopes to measure the effects of the collision.