

Critical Thinking Exercise

"An asteroid is on a collision course with Earth, say scientists. Dubbed AB175, the space rock has been measured at 30 kilometers wide and may weigh up to 1 million kilograms. 'Our calculations show that its trajectory will put it within 100,000 kilometers of the Earth in March of 2012,' says Dr. John Smith of the Westville Observatory. Dr. Joe Williams of Easttown University says, 'An asteroid like this one wiped out the dinosaurs millions of years ago. Humanity could be next if we don't do something about it.'"

Run through the checklist, and write down your answers. When you're done, compare your results to those set out in the answer sheet.

- Identify the arguments, the provided data, and the assumed data.

Arguments:

Provided Data:

- What are the sources of the data?
- Can you verify the data, by checking their sources or by checking an alternate source?

