

Asteroids and Meteorites

There have been 3 asteroid sample return missions, the Hayabusa mission and the Hayabusa2 mission, which were operated by JAXA and NASA's OSIRIS-REx Mission, which will return samples from the asteroid Bennu in 2023.

Although these are the first and only asteroid return missions that humanity has conducted, we have been studying asteroids for over 100 years because we get pieces of asteroids that fall to the Earth, and they are the meteorites that we recover in the deserts and in Antarctica.

And scientists have been studying these asteroids to learn about the formation of the solar system and the Earth, and even in some cases, possibly the origin of life.