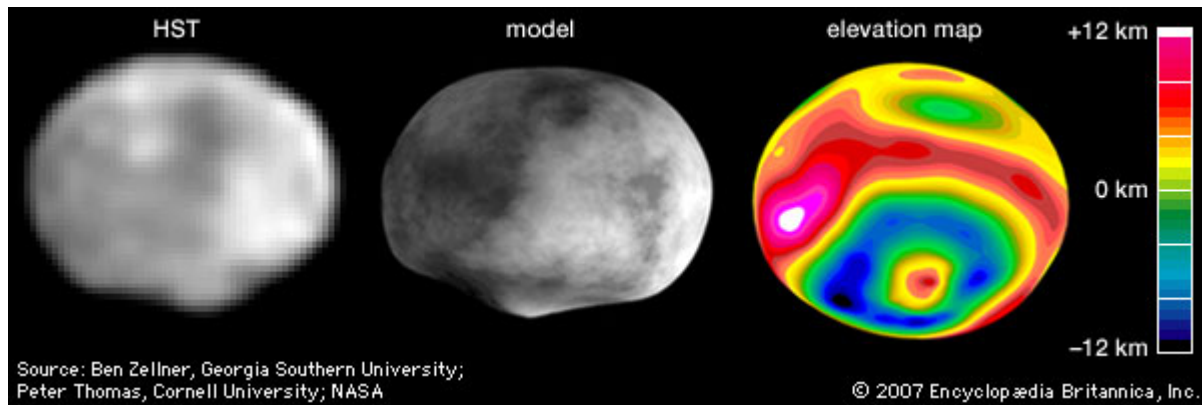


Vesta



Vesta, one of the largest asteroids, has a mostly rounded shape. Earlier in its history, however, collision with another body gouged out a huge basin near its south pole, shown at bottom images. The asteroid appears in three views based on data from the Hubble Space Telescope image (left) taken by the telescope, a computer-generated model (center), and a color-coded image (right) that shows differences in elevation, with pink showing the highest elevation and blue showing the lowest. The elevation map is tilted somewhat relative to the two other

Source: Ben Zellner, Georgia Southern University; Peter Thomas, Cornell University; NASA Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.

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Asteroids are also called minor planets because they are smaller than the major planets of the solar system. Ceres is the largest asteroid by far, with a diameter of about 584 miles (940 kilometers). It is massive enough to also be considered a dwarf planet. Next in size are Vesta and Pallas, at ...

MLA style:

"Vesta." Online Art. Encyclopædia Britannica Online School Edition. 10 June 2008.
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APA style:

Vesta. [Art]. Retrieved June 10, 2008, from Encyclopædia Britannica Online School Edition:
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