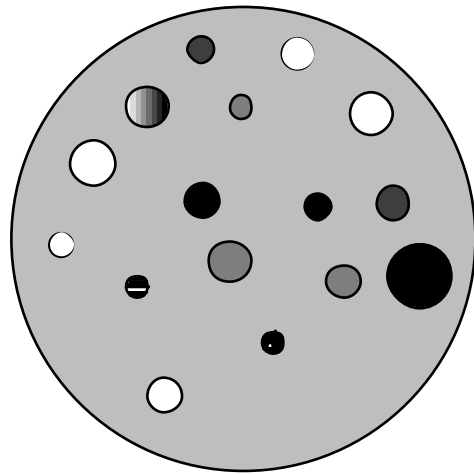
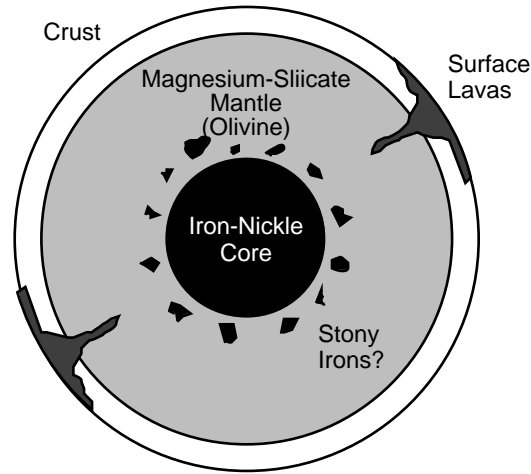


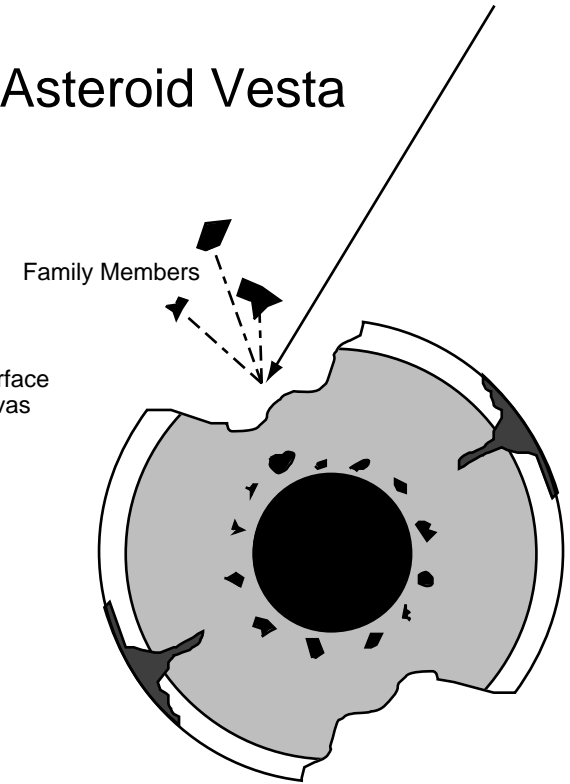
Key Stages in the Evolution of the Asteroid Vesta



As smaller bodies in the early Solar System fall together, the asteroid agglomerates.



Heavier elements sink to the center as the asteroid heats. This forms a separate core, mantle, and outer crust. Lava from the interior flows to the surface.



Occasional impacts with other bodies break off pieces of the crust, exposing the mantle.