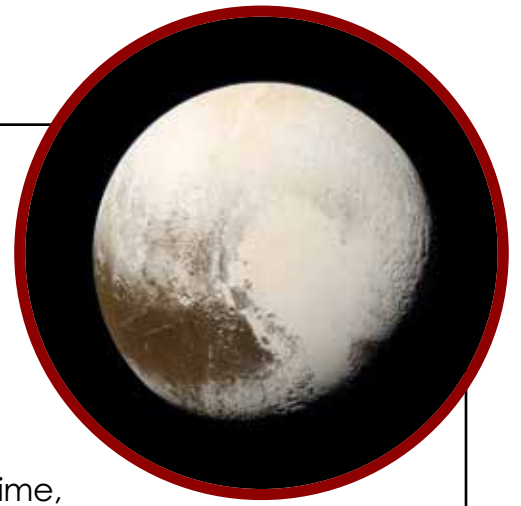


Name: _____

Pluto

By Cynthia Sherwood



Poor, poor Pluto. Scientists now say it's not a true planet. Since 2006, they have called Pluto a dwarf planet. They believe Pluto is too small and its orbit around the sun too irregular to be the ninth planet in our solar system.

Pluto is so far away from Earth that it

For a long time, scientists didn't know very much about Pluto. However, in 2015, NASA's *New Horizons* traveled within 7,800 miles (12,550 km) of the mysterious planet. For the first time, a spacecraft was close enough to the planet to take photos

that showed details of the planet. The



Preview

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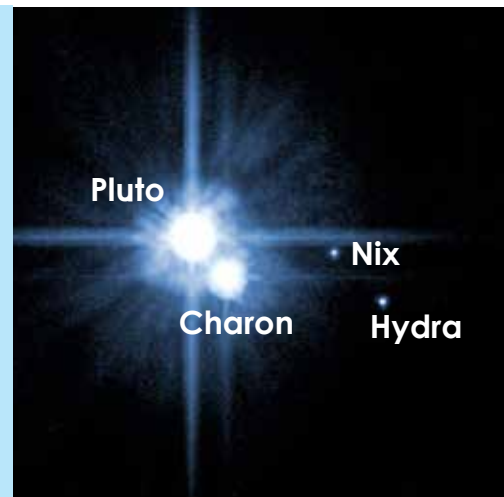
suggested Pluto, the name of the Roman god of the underworld. She thought the name made sense because Pluto is a dark and icy place.

entire solar system. With an average temperature of -387 degrees Fahrenheit (-232 degrees Celsius), humans couldn't survive on this chilly planet.

Moons of Pluto

So far, astronomers have found five moons that orbit Pluto. Charon, the largest, was discovered in 1978. Two smaller moons were discovered in 2005. They were named Nix and Hydra. In 2011, another of Pluto's moons, Kerberos, was discovered. Most recently, Styx was discovered in 2012.

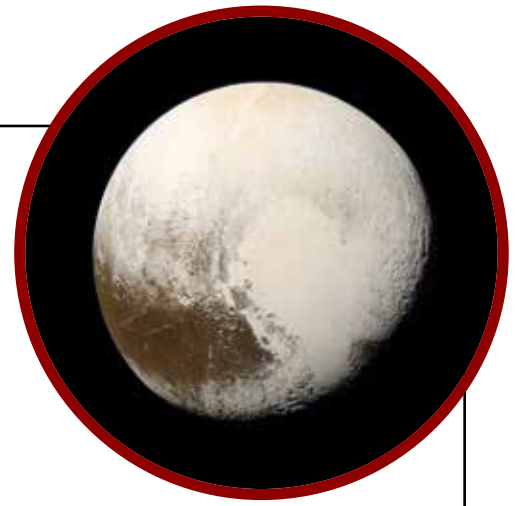
Do you think scientists will find any more?



Name: _____

Pluto

By Cynthia Sherwood



1. Tell whether each fact is true or false.

_____ Pluto's heart-shaped marking is made up of nitrogen ice.

_____ Pluto's temperatures reach up to 387 degrees Fahrenheit.

2. What are the names of Pluto's five moons?



Preview

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a. about 5 years ago

4. Pluto was named after ...

- a. an 11 year-old girl
- b. the Roman god of the underworld
- c. a famous scientist
- d. a cartoon dog



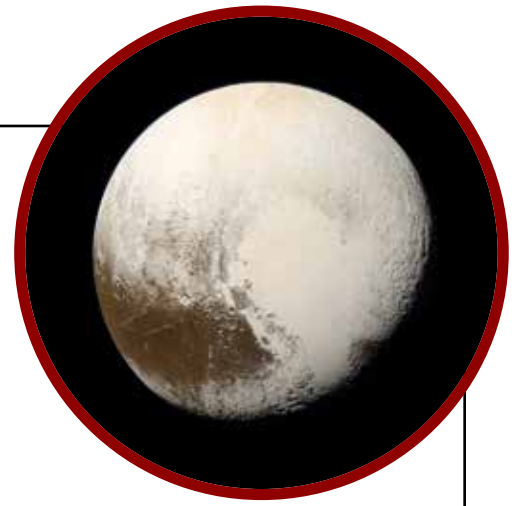
Close-up of Pluto's surface

5. Jimmy told his teacher that he was laying on the grass looking up at the stars last night when he saw Pluto in the sky. His teacher didn't believe him. Why?

ANSWER KEY

Pluto

By Cynthia Sherwood



1. Tell whether each fact is true or false.

True Pluto's heart-shaped marking is made up of nitrogen ice.

False Pluto's temperatures reach up to 387 degrees Fahrenheit.

2. What are the names of Pluto's five moons?



Preview

Please log in to download the printable version of this worksheet.

a. about 5 years ago

4. Pluto was named after ...

a. an 11 year-old girl

b. the Roman god of the underworld

c. a famous scientist

d. a cartoon dog



Close-up of Pluto's surface

5. Jimmy told his teacher that he was laying on the grass looking up at the stars last night when he saw Pluto in the sky. His teacher didn't believe him. Why?

Pluto is too small and far away to be seen without a telescope.
