

Name: _____ Date: _____

Dwarf Planet Pluto Multiple Choice Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. Pluto was discovered in the
 - a. 1600s
 - b. 1700s
 - c. 1800s
 - d. 1900s

2. The Earth is about how many times larger than Pluto?
 - a. 2
 - b. 4
 - c. 5
 - d. 8

3. Pluto's orbit crosses the orbit of which planet?
 - a. Uranus
 - b. Neptune
 - c. Earth
 - d. Venus

4. The space probe that is scheduled to reach Pluto in 2015 is
 - a. Voyager
 - b. New Horizons
 - c. MESSENGER
 - d. Mariner

5. What color does Pluto appear when viewed from space?
 - a. Brown
 - b. Blue
 - c. Green
 - d. Red-orange

6. The International Astronomical Union has declared that Pluto is a
 - a. Planet
 - b. Dwarf planet
 - c. Asteroid
 - d. Moon



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Dwarf Planet Pluto Short Answer Questions

1. Explain when and how Pluto was discovered.
2. Do some research and write a short report about American astronomer Percival Lowell.
3. How many times further away from the Sun is Pluto compared to Earth?
4. Do some research and write a short report about the New Horizons space probe.
5. Astronomers found that Pluto spent 20 years, from 1979 until 1999, closer to the Sun than Neptune. Is it possible that Pluto crosses Neptune's orbit at other times? Explain your answer.
6. Do some research and write a short report about the Kuiper belt.
7. Do you think that astronomers will ever find another planet? Explain your answer.



Dwarf Planet Pluto Answer Key

Multiple Choice

1. d.
2. c.
3. b.
4. b.
5. a.
6. b.

Short Answer

1. Pluto was discovered in 1930 by an American astronomer, Clyde W. Tombaugh. He used a powerful telescope to search the sky in a location predicted to contain another planet by American astronomer Percival Lowell in 1905. Lowell died in 1916 before he could find the planet himself.
2. Individual response
3. $3.6 \text{ billion} / 93 \text{ million} = 38.7 \sim = 39 \text{ times further}$
4. Individual response
5. It takes Pluto 248 Earth years to revolve around the Sun. Pluto could cross Neptune's orbit at other times and it would take astronomers nearly 200 years to discover it since Pluto has only been observed since 1930.
6. Individual response
7. Individual response

