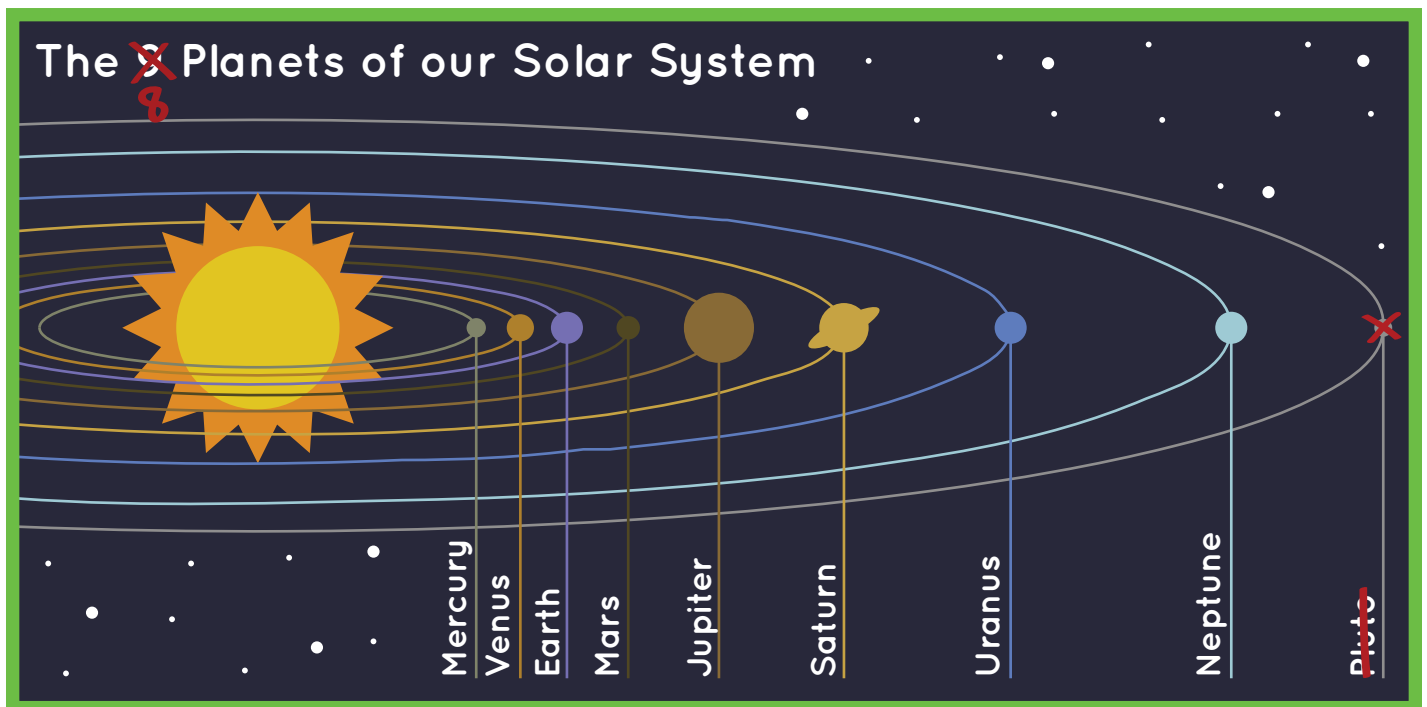


What is Pluto?

What constitutes a “planet” by our definition?



Pluto is a dwarf planet that used to be considered as one of the nine planets of our solar system. A dwarf planet is a celestial body that is big enough to have its own gravitational field, making it round like the planets. However, a dwarf planet is not able to sweep up or expel debris from its orbital path, like normal planets do.

In 2006, Pluto was downgraded from a planet to a dwarf planet because it could not sufficiently sweep up or expel debris. This new ruling has met lots of controversy. Some astronomers believe that Pluto and a few other more massive and distant dwarf planets should be classified as “planets” instead.

Possible structure of Pluto

