## 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


## Reading Resopnse

Do you think Pluto should be called a planet or a dwarf planet? Astronomers still disagree on whether or not the "dwarf planet" status given to Pluto is fair. Do some research and come up with three solid reasons why you think Pluto should or should not be deemed as a planet.



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