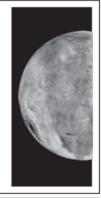
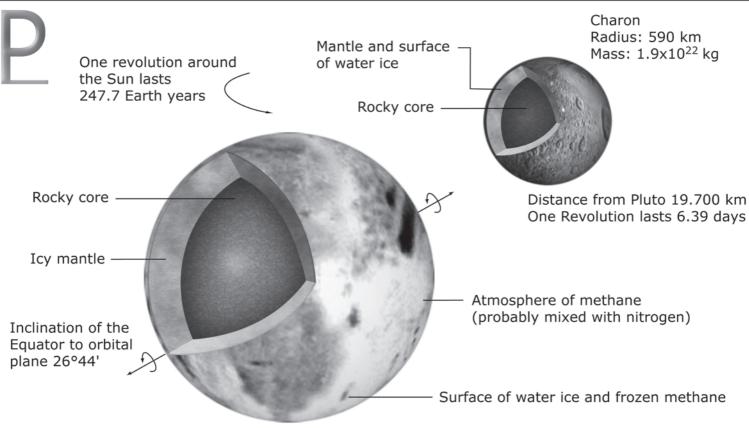


Summary Information Sheet

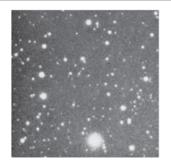
PLUTO/CHARON

Pluto is named after the Roman god of the underworld. It is the smallest major planet in the Solar System and has never been investigated by a spacecraft. It was discovered in 1930. Pluto's only known moon Charon is fairly close to it and about half its size. It is difficult to separate the bodies when viewed from Earth.





Pluto"s orbit is more tilted and more elongated than that of any other major planet A section of Pluto"s orbit is closer to the Sun than Neptune's orbit. Thus, for some time, Neptune is the most distant major planet



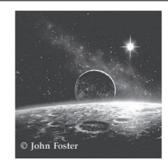
The discovery of Pluto



Pluto's surface



Pluto and Charon



Pluto space art

Physical Data

Property Distance from the Sun Rotation period Equatorial radius Mass Density Satellites

nages:	ESO,	ESA,	NASA,	except	otherwise	stated

Pluto

5966 million km 6 days 9 hrs 18 min 1195 km $1.3 \times 10^{22} \text{ kg}$ 1100 kg/m³

For comparison

Moon
150 million km
27 days 8 hrs
1738 km
$7.35 \times 10^{22} \text{ kg}$
3340 kg/m ³

Earth	
150 million km	
23 hrs 56 min	
6378 km	
5.97×10^{24} kg	
5520 kg/m ³	
1	

Concept: B. Mackowiak