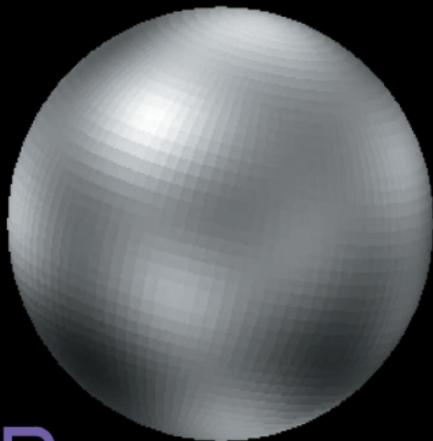


PLUTO



P

"THE ICE DWARF"



Taking 248 years to orbit the Sun, Pluto is the smallest and most distant planet from the Sun. It is only about two-thirds the size of our Moon. Pluto is sometimes considered a double planet system because its moon, Charon, is about half Pluto's size, making Charon the largest satellite in the solar system in proportion to the size of its planet. Though Pluto was discovered in 1930, Charon wasn't detected until 1978. That is because Charon is so close to Pluto that they are typically blurred together when viewed through ground-based telescopes.



This is the clearest photo yet taken of Pluto and Charon, as revealed by NASA's Hubble Space Telescope.

To date, Pluto is the only planet in the solar system not yet visited by spacecraft.



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