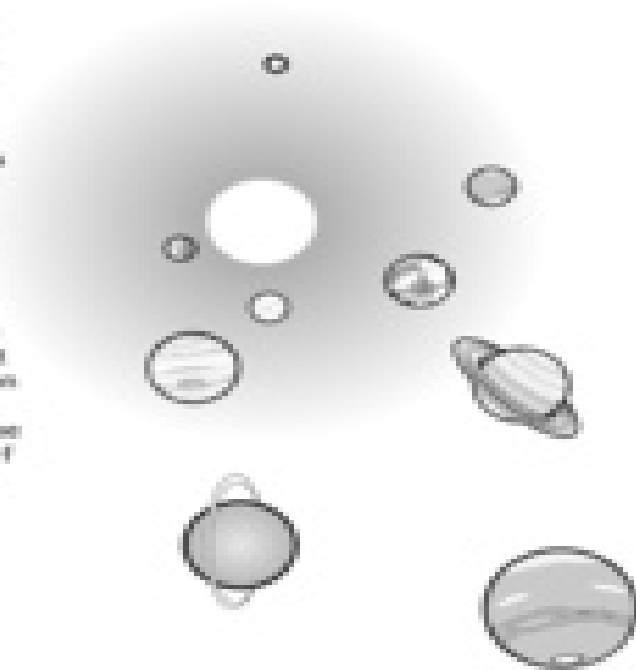


A Puzzling Number of Planets

Pluto used to be the ninth planet.

Did you know that Earth was once thought to be the center of the solar system? People believed that the sun, the moon, and the other planets moved around Earth. Then new findings were made. People learned that Earth moves around the sun. Including Earth, there are eight planets that orbit the sun. Scientists used to say there were nine planets. But in 2006, scientists voted to change the definition of a planet. This new definition has three rules for being a planet. Pluto, which was the ninth planet, is not a planet because of the third rule. This rule says that a planet cannot have other objects in its region of orbit. Pluto has other objects in its orbit. Therefore, Pluto is no longer one of the planets. It is now called a dwarf planet. Not all scientists agree with this decision. Do you?



Write "true" or "false" on the line next to each sentence.

- _____ 1. The sun is not a planet.
- _____ 2. Some people think that Neptune should not be a planet.
- _____ 3. All scientists believe Pluto is a planet.
- _____ 4. Earth is the center of our solar system.
- _____ 5. Experts do not agree on the number of planets.