

**Lesson 7 teacher notes**

By now the pupils will probably realise they don't really have enough information to decide whether Pluto is a planet or not. For instance, we don't really know if it is spherical and we don't know what it is made from. So we need a mission to Pluto to find out more.

**Starter**

There is a PowerPoint presentation on the current missions planned.

**Main**

The main activity is the drag and drop exercise that involves decisions about the instruments on offer.

The teams then need to write a 'Mission brief' explaining what their mission will do. For example, it will have a lander which will be able to . . . The instruments will help us to get information about . . . A letter template is available.

Pupils can then send the mission brief by email to the mission planning committee. Use the email address on the website.

**Plenary**

Watch the video (about five minutes) of the space test facilities at the CCLRC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory which shows the tests that need to be done to make sure the spacecraft will survive on its mission.