

During these two lessons pupils have opportunities to express their understanding of the issues involved in deciding whether or not Pluto is a planet to a wider audience. Alternatively, the lessons may enable some pupils to consolidate their knowledge and understanding of 'The Solar System and beyond'. Each one of the suggested ideas could be used with individuals or groups of pupils depending on their interest or ability. The outcome could possibly be used to assess the pupils' progress against National Curriculum criteria.

Ideas

- Write a letter to the European Space Agency (ESA) explaining what you have found out about Pluto during the last few lessons and posing them some further questions that you would like answered.
- Write an article for a national newspaper about the evidence showing that Pluto is not a planet. Back up your article with evidence and think carefully about the people who will read the article.
- Write a revision guide for Year 7 pupils to help them learn about the Solar System.
- Pretend that you are a scientist who has discovered some important evidence about whether or not Pluto should be thought of as a planet. Explain why you need money from ESA to help research this evidence further.
- Write an article for a magazine titled 'A day in the life of' as if you were a scientist from the past.
- Write a letter to a friend about your recent trip to Pluto.
- Write a page for a textbook explaining why Pluto is a planet.
- Write a leaflet for pupils in local primary schools about planning a trip to Pluto.
- Plan a 60 second slot for tonight's TV news about the discovery that Pluto should not be called a planet.
- Write the outline for a TV documentary about how some of the early ideas of the Solar System are still held today.
- Make a promotional video to market Pluto as a new holiday destination.
- Use the template to make a PowerPoint presentation of up to ten slides for a school assembly. Include the questions that still need to be asked about the Solar System and say whether Pluto should be included as a planet.
- Write a poem with the lines starting with the letters P,L,U,T,O.
- Write an advertisement or marketing leaflet for a luxury cruise around the Solar System.