

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Pluto: The Dwarf Planet That Sparked Curiosity

### Open-Ended Response Questions

1. Discuss the characteristics of Pluto's surface and atmosphere, and explain how they differ from those of Earth.
2. Describe the significance of Pluto's largest moon, Charon, and its relationship with Pluto. How does it contribute to the unique nature of the Pluto-Charon system?
3. Explain the reasons behind the reclassification of Pluto as a "dwarf planet" by the International Astronomical Union (IAU) in 2006. What implications did this decision have for our understanding of the solar system?
4. Reflect on the importance of the New Horizons mission to Pluto and the valuable insights it provided about this distant world. What were some of the key discoveries made during the mission, and how did they expand our knowledge of Pluto?

