
Our Solar System

Reading Comprehension

A New Planet?

Three scientists were studying the solar system in 2005. They saw something new in the sky! It was large and bright. Even people who studied the solar system just for fun were able to see it. These people are called amateur astronomers.

The object seemed much bigger than Pluto. Its path around the sun was different from the other planets. No one knew if it was a planet or not. Everyone had their own thoughts.

One of the scientists, Michael E. Brown, thought that it was a planet because of its size. A theorist, Alan Boss, did not agree. A theorist is a person who studies guesses. He thought that it was not fair to call it a “planet”. The rest of the planets in our solar system are much bigger!

Michael Brown was sure that it was a planet. He has continued to collect information about this bright object. In the end, the planet was not big enough to be called a planet. It was called a dwarf planet instead. Michael Brown named the dwarf planet Eris.

Story Questions:

1. What is an amateur astronomer?
 - a. someone who likes snacks
 - b. someone who is a scientist
 - c. someone who studies the sky for fun
 - d. someone who watches space shows on TV

2. A theorist is someone who...
 - a. enjoys looking at stars.
 - b. talks to people about things they do not know.
 - c. studies guesses to find out if they are true.
 - d. studies planets.

3. Why were people who studied the solar system able to see this object?
 - a. It covered the moon for five minutes.
 - b. They knew it was coming.
 - c. They had read about it.
 - d. It was large and bright.

Journal Writing

4. **Write** 3-5 sentences about what you would name a planet that you discovered in the solar system. Why would you give it this name?

Math Worksheet

5. **Practise** [these fact families using addition and subtraction](#).

Word Problems

6. **Read** the word problems below and **write** the answers.
 - ★ Use the numbers 8, 9, and 17 to make two addition problems and two subtraction problems.

 - ★ Use the numbers 6, 14, and 20 to make two addition problems and two subtraction problems.

Fun Stuff!

7. **Conduct** your own [moon rock experiment](#).