

Dwarf Planets

In 2006, the IAU decided to create a new classification category for solar system objects called "dwarf planets" that is distinct from "planets". Pluto was reclassified as a dwarf planet. At present there are only four other members of this category, [Ceres](#), [Eris](#), Makemake and Haumea but it is likely that there will be many more in the future as the [Kuiper Belt](#) is more fully explored.

The actual definition of "dwarf planet" is kind of technical: a celestial body that

- a. is in orbit around the Sun,
- b. has sufficient mass for its self-gravity to overcome rigid body forces so that it assumes a hydrostatic equilibrium (nearly round) shape,
- c. has not cleared the neighbourhood around its orbit, and
- d. is not a satellite.

In short, something that looks like a planet but isn't a planet.

Dwarf planets so far:

- [Pluto](#)
- [Ceres](#)
- [Eris](#)
- Makemake and Haumea

More about Dwarf Planets

- from [Wikipedia](#)
- [debate](#) about the definition of planet

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