

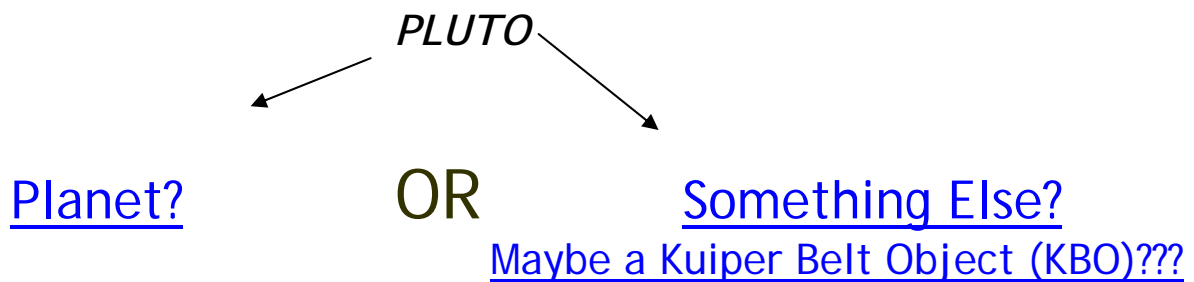
1. State the Problem/Ask a Question

#1 Is Pluto really a planet?

#2 How is a planet defined?

2. Gather Information/Research

A. Astronomical Observations:



Too small for planet
(1/50 mass of Earth and
smaller than Moon)

Too icy, not enough rock or gas

Orbit is "cockeyed" to all other
Planets

About the right size

These objects are mostly ice

Orbit fits KBO

B. Historical Considerations:

- ✓ *We have a 2,500 history of thinking of Pluto as a planet*
- ✓ *We will have to change all our books, posters and displays*
- ✓ *My Very Educated Mother....*

3. Form a Hypothesis

I think Pluto is a planet.

I think Pluto is something else.
Pluto is too different than other planets

4. Perform an Experiment

1. 2,500 astronomers and historians meet to discuss definition of planet in light of new scientific findings
2. Come up with new definition of planet on August 16, 2006

5. Collect and Analyze Data

- ✓ *Vote on definition August 25, 2006*

6. Reach a Conclusion

- ✓ Pluto is not a planet.
- ✓ Science is always being challenged by new questions and data