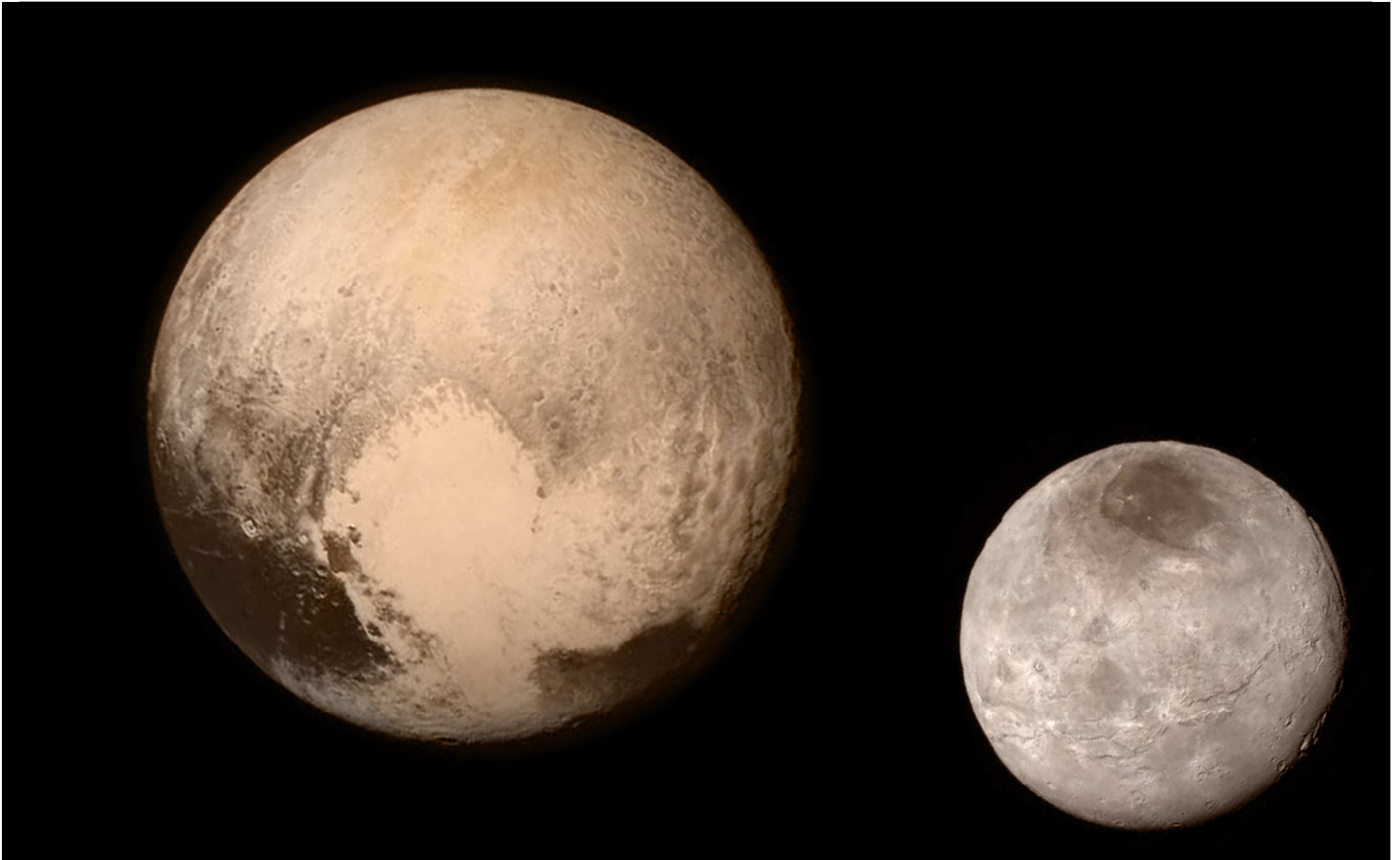


Facts About Pluto



Basic Information About Pluto and Charon

1. The search for the ninth planet, "Planet X", led to the discovery of Pluto by Clyde Tombaugh in 1930. The discovery came at the Lowell Observatory in Arizona and made headlines across the globe.
2. Pluto is the most massive known dwarf planet in the Solar System.
3. Because many Pluto-sized bodies exist in the Kuiper Belt (out beyond the orbit of Neptune), Pluto was downgraded from a planet to dwarf planet status in 2006.
4. Pluto has five known moons, the largest being Charon (above), which is half the size of Pluto.
5. Pluto is 1473 miles in diameter; Charon is 751 miles in diameter.
6. Pluto takes 246 years to complete one orbit of the Sun (3.52 billion miles from the Sun).
7. Because Pluto's orbit is very elongated, part of its orbit is actually closer to the Sun than Neptune.
8. Pluto has a very thin atmosphere composed of nitrogen, methane, and carbon monoxide.
9. Charon is too small and has too little gravity to have an atmosphere.
10. The images above of Pluto and Charon were taken by the *New Horizons* spacecraft on its flyby of Pluto on July 14, 2015.