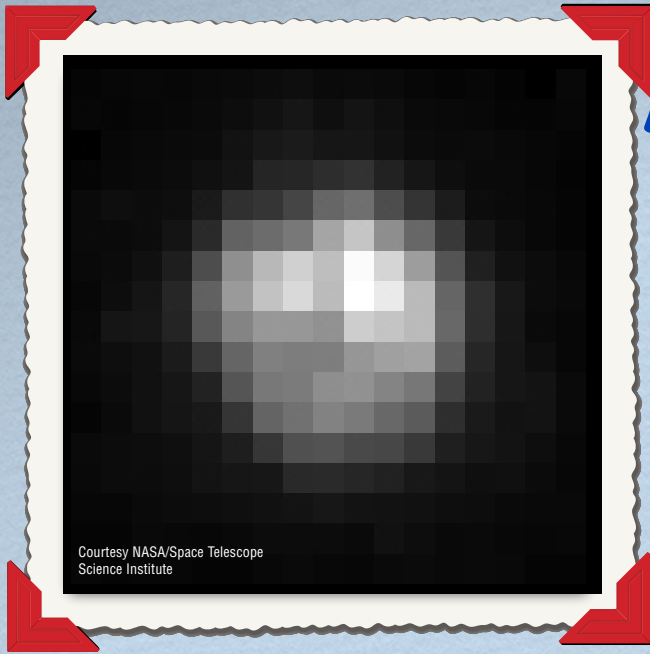




# You're the Best!

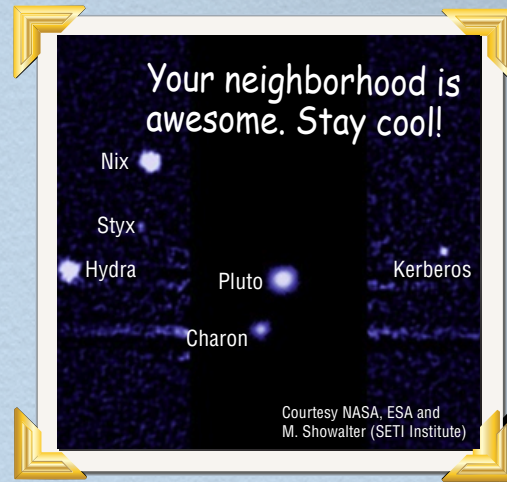


Courtesy NASA/Space Telescope Science Institute

*I found you!*  
← C.T.

American Astronomer Clyde Tombaugh discovered Pluto on February 18, 1930.

NASA's New Horizons spacecraft will provide images 5,000 times better than currently possible when it reaches Pluto on July 14, 2015, coming to within 7,800 miles (12,500 kilometers) of the dwarf planet.



Courtesy NASA, ESA and M. Showalter (SETI Institute)

Pluto and its family reside in the farthest reaches of the solar system within the Kuiper Belt of icy, rocky objects.

## Never change!

While Pluto doesn't appear to change much, studies show the dwarf planet is changing faster than expected. For example, the density of Pluto's atmosphere has doubled since being measured in 1988.

## *See you next summer!*

It takes Pluto 248 Earth years to orbit once around the Sun. Since its discovery in 1930, the planet has yet to complete even one-third of an orbit.

## Keep in touch!

The New Horizons spacecraft is so far from Earth that round-trip communications take about nine hours at the speed of light. After the Pluto encounter, it will take more than a year to return the science data.

## *Can't wait to know you better!*

When it reaches Pluto in July 2015, New Horizons will revolutionize our understanding of this distant world. Features the size of a football field or smaller will be seen for the first time.

## *You can't judge a book by its cover!*

Pluto sits amidst the most frigid temperatures in the solar system. Once believed to consist of ice, scientists now calculate its mass to be 60- to 70-percent rock.



Courtesy NASA/Space Telescope Science Institute



The names for Nix and Hydra were selected, in part, because the letters N and H also double for the New Horizons spacecraft.



[www.pluto.jhuapl.edu](http://www.pluto.jhuapl.edu)

[www.nasa.gov](http://www.nasa.gov)



the Pluto family 2014 yearbook