Pluto, the Maybe Planet

A Cross-Curricular Unit

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Name _____ Date _____

Understanding What You Read

Fill in the chart below with facts from the article.

Reasons Pluto should be considered a planet	Reasons Pluto should NOT be considered a planet	Other possible classifications for Pluto

Tell Your Own Story

Imagine that you are on a crewed spacecraft that is landing on an unknown planet. What do you find there? What adventures do you have? _____

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Vocabulary Builder

Many scientific words come from the Greek language. Here are some you should know. For each example, find a word in the article using the Greek word and write it on the line. Then see if you can come up with another word that also uses the Greek word.

1. *tele*   far away _____

2. *photo*   light _____

3. *astro*   star _____

4. *graph*   writing _____

Figure It Out!

Use your math skills to solve the problems below.

1. Earth is 93 million miles from the Sun. At the point in its orbit when the Kuiper Belt Object 2003 UB313 is nearest the Sun, it is 38 times that distance. How far from the Sun is this KBO?
   _____

2. Pluto is 1,500 miles across. Mercury is about 3,000 miles across. How can you express these numbers in a fraction? _____

3. Neptune takes 164 years to travel around the Sun. Pluto takes 248 years. Use a number with a decimal to express how much longer Pluto's journey takes. _____

4. If you weighed 60 pounds on Earth, you would weigh 4 pounds on Pluto. How many times more does each pound account for on Earth? _____

   If you were on Pluto and weighed 7 pounds, how much would you weigh on Earth?

   _____