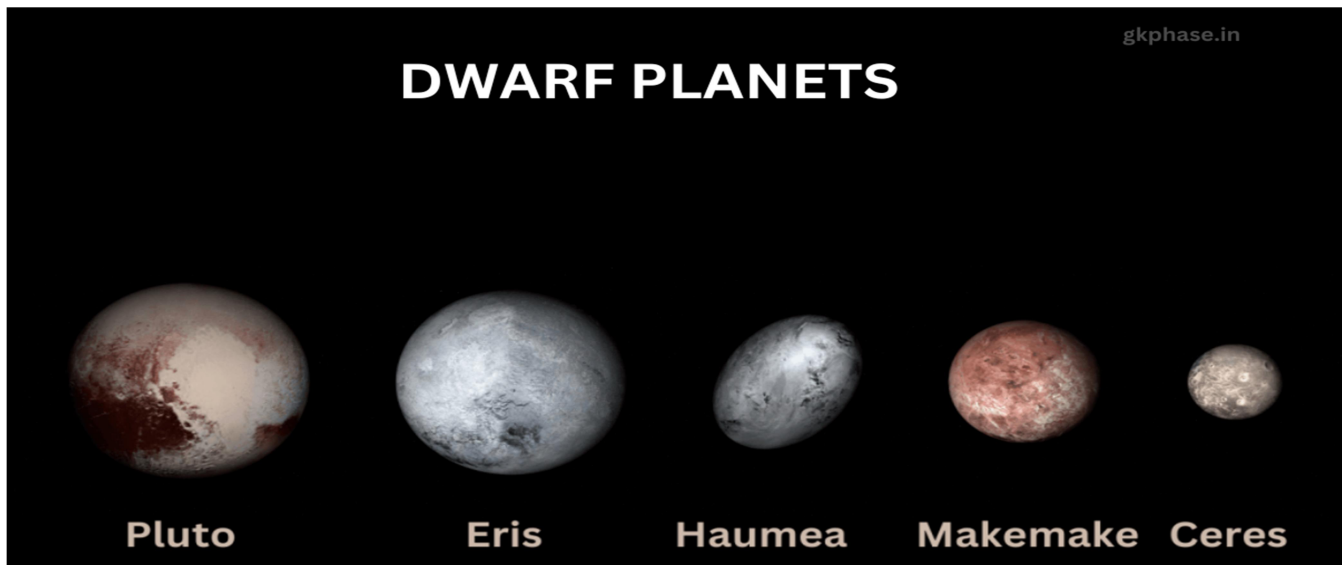


COMPONENTS OF SOLAR SYSTEM

DWARF PLANETS



There are smaller round objects out there that are almost like planets, but not quite. These are called dwarf planets. Dwarf planets are like the smaller siblings of regular planets. They are round, just like planets, but they're not big enough to clear out all the other debris (like rocks and dust) around their orbits. Also, they're not as huge as the big planets like Earth, Mars, Jupiter, and the others we know.

One famous dwarf planet is Pluto. It used to be considered a regular planet, but scientists later realized it was more like a dwarf planet because it's much smaller and doesn't have its orbit all to itself.

So, in simple terms, think of dwarf planets as smaller, round objects in space that aren't big enough to be full-fledged planets but still hang out in our solar system, orbiting around the Sun, just like the bigger planets do.

EXAMPLES OF DWARF PLANETS

Some examples of dwarf planets are:

1. **Pluto:** Probably the most famous dwarf planet, Pluto used to be considered the ninth planet in our solar system until it was reclassified as a dwarf planet in 2006. It's located in the outer regions of the solar system, far beyond the orbit of Neptune.
2. **Eris:** Eris is about the same size as Pluto and is located in the Kuiper Belt, a region of icy objects beyond the orbit of Neptune. Its discovery in 2005 played a significant role in the reevaluation of what constitutes a planet.
3. **Haumea:** Haumea is another dwarf planet found in the Kuiper Belt. It's known for its elongated shape, resembling a stretched-out rugby ball, rather than a perfect sphere.
4. **Makemake:** Also located in the Kuiper Belt, Makemake is another dwarf planet discovered in 2005. It's similar in size to Haumea and Pluto.
5. **Ceres:** Unlike the other dwarf planets mentioned, Ceres is located in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter. It's the largest object in the asteroid belt and was classified as both a dwarf planet and the largest asteroid in the solar system.