

Pluto is the only planet that has not been visited by a spacecraft. However, we have used telescopes to determine that Pluto is about 2,320 km in diameter and that its moon, Charon, is 1,270 km in diameter. In 1994 the Hubble telescope showed that 85 percent of Pluto's surface is dark. Scientists believe that the bright areas are fields of nitrogen ice and that the dark areas are methane ice and craters. *"Many astronomers think Pluto may be a former satellite of Neptune, knocked into a separate orbit during the early days of the solar system. Charon could be an accumulation of the lighter materials resulting from the collision."*