

What's Up in the Night Sky for OCTOBER



Presented by

Night Sky October 2024 Events | Solar Eclipse 2024
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y8G91y97KFM>

Tonight's Sky: October
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=46tzuCrOXgE>

10 AMAZING FACTS ABOUT DWARF PLANETS

1. What is Dwarf Planet?

Dwarf planets share many of the same characteristics as [planets](#) though there is one significant difference. The International Astronomical Union's definition of a dwarf planet is a celestial body that:

- a. *is in orbit around the Sun,*
- b. *has sufficient mass for its self-gravity to overcome rigid body forces so that it assumes a hydrostatic equilibrium (nearly round) shape,*
- c. *has not cleared the neighborhood around its orbit, and*
- d. *is not a satellite.*

2. How Many Are There?

There are 5 officially recognized (by the International Astronomical Union) dwarf planets in our solar system, they are Ceres, Pluto, Haumea, Makemake and Eris.

3. How Many Are Unofficially Recognized?

There are another 6 objects in our solar system that are almost certainly dwarf planets and there may be as many as 10,000.

4. Size

The largest dwarf planet in the solar system is Pluto followed by Eris, Makemake, Haumea, with the smallest being Ceres.

5. Location

They are found in the Keiper Belt beyond Neptune except for Ceres which is found in the Asteroid Belt between Mars and Jupiter.

6. Shape

They have enough mass and gravity to be nearly round, unlike odd-shaped asteroids.

7. Orbits

Dwarf planets travel through space in a path around the Sun, but their paths are full of other objects like asteroids.

8. Surface

The surfaces of dwarf planets can vary, with some having icy compositions and others rocky.

9. Exploration

NASA's New Horizons mission provided detailed images and data about Pluto and its moons during its flyby in 2015 and the Dawn mission gave us information about Ceres.

10. Naming of Dwarf Planets

The dwarf planets are named after mythological characters.

PROGRAMS AVAILABLE

I am currently scheduling **Live-Online** interactive programs for small to large groups. Each program lasts about 60 minutes and includes hands-on activities that can be completed after the session. These programs align with the courses I am offering and others under development. The following is a list of topics available. Check out more information by clicking the following link:

<https://www.centiastro.space.com/programs>

- 1. Unveiling Distant Worlds: The Quest for Exoplanets**
- 2. Hunting for Aliens: The Quest for Life Beyond Earth**
- 3. The Mind-Blowing Impact of Exoplanet Discovery**
- 4. Space Exploration: A Mission for Everyone**
- 5. The Space Race Leading to Humans on the Moon**
- 6. The Artemis Missions: Paving the Way for Mars**
- 7. Birth, Development and Diversity of Our Solar System**
- 8. Gravitational Dance Between the Sun, Planets and Minor Objects**
- 9. Robotic Exploration of the Solar System**
- 10. Navigating the Cosmic Waters: From Earth and Beyond**

11. **Celestial Shadows: Solar and Lunar Eclipses Demystified**
12. **Unraveling the Mysteries of Earth's Celestial Companion**
13. **How Rockets Work: Past, Present, Advanced
Propulsion to Warp Drives**
14. **Space Shuttle Exploration**
15. **Exploring Space Stations: From Earth to Beyond**
16. **Cool Wonders of the Universe**
17. **Stargazing: Unveiling the Wonders of the Night Sky**
18. **Exploring the Universe with Rising Stargirls**
19. **UFO / UAP Mysteries Explored**

Earth Has Caught a 'Second Moon,' Scientists Say

Robert Lea September 30, 2024

NASA scientists calculated that Earth should have captured a "second moon" on Sunday (Sept. 29). The "mini-moon" is actually the tiny asteroid 2024 PT5, which usually orbits the sun as part of a small asteroid belt that follows Earth.

While Earth's primary companion, [the moon](#), has lingered around our planet for around 4 billion years since its formation in the [solar system](#)'s infancy, this [asteroid](#) will be a temporary fixture that won't even see the year out. To learn more about this click here: <https://www.space.com/earth-will-capture-second-moon-sept-2024>



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