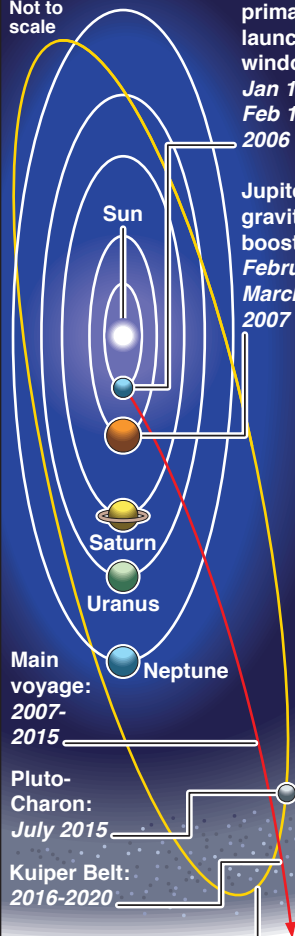


Voyage to new frontier of space

NASA's *New Horizons* spacecraft is set for launch on a 10-year journey to the outermost reaches of the solar system in what will be the first ever mission to explore Pluto, its large moon Charon and the mysterious Kuiper Belt, a vast region of icy objects beyond the orbit of Neptune

MISSION TIMELINE

Not to scale



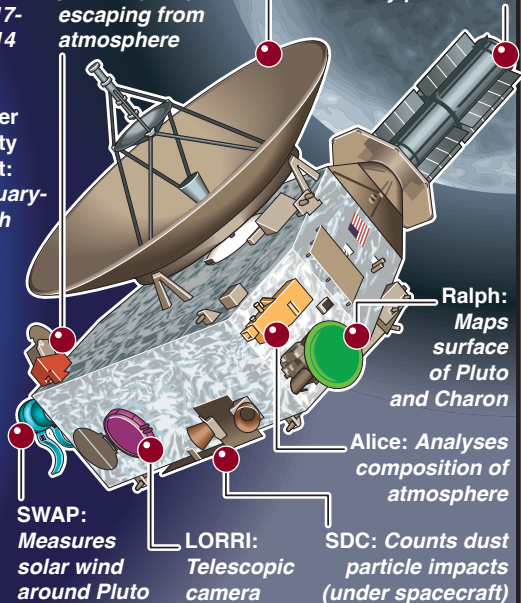
Pluto's orbit is inclined at angle of 17 to other planets and passes inside Neptune's orbit

SPACECRAFT

PEPSSI: Measures plasma (ions) escaping from atmosphere

REX: Radio wave experiment

RTG: Power source fuelled by plutonium



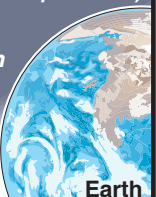
PLANETS COMPARED

Pluto and its moon Charon together form a "binary planet". Pluto's two other tiny moons were discovered in 2005

Charon



Pluto



Earth

Diameter (km)	2,274	12,756
Day (Earth hours)	153	24
Year (Earth time)	248 years	365 days
Distance from sun	6 billion km	150m km
Av. temperature	-233C	15C