

# Pluto

## Introduction

- **Level:** B1
- **Skills:** Reading, Speaking
- **Topics:** Vocabulary (Universe) and Grammar (Passive voice, Questions, short answers, question tags)
- **Merging subjects:** Astronomy

## The enigma

- **Keywords**

Solar System, Planets, Passive Voice

- **Toolbox**

Chatbot, printed text

- **Description of the enigma**

Context: A character wanted to protect important information or documents thanks to a chatbot. The students must answer to 4 questions about Pluto with short answers and question tags.

Plutobot: (Welcome message) Hi, I'm Plutobot. Nice to meet you!

If you're here, it means that you're trying to access to Dr. X's secret files. But he wants only humans to access them. So prove me you're one by answering my questions only with short answers and question tags! Haha, hackers would never think that grammar would bar them from these precious files... Let's start!



# Pluto

Plutobot: In what year was Pluto discovered again?

Answer: In 1930, \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Students have to type: wasn't it

Plutobot: Yes, that sounds right.

Plutobot: Is Pluto a planet?

Answer: No, \_\_\_\_\_ !

Students have to type: it isn't

Plutobot: You're right about that.

Plutobot: Now, is there much known about Pluto?

Answer: No, \_\_\_\_\_.

Students have to type: there isn't.

Plutobot: Exactly, this is why Pluto is so fascinating!

Plutobot: Could it be said that Pluto is an icy planet?

Answer: Yes, \_\_\_\_\_.

Students have to type: it could

Plutobot: It sure can: it's surface is -230 degrees Celsius!

Plutobot: Well, it does seem to me that you are a human after all... Try code 49820 to open the suitcase containing the files!



# Pluto

Students receive the following text:

'Pluto was discovered in 1930 by 24 year-old Clyde Tombaugh, who was using a special machine to compare photos of the sky. It turned out to be a tiny world, even smaller than our Moon.

(...)

Very little is known about Pluto. Its surface is extremely cold (-230 degrees C) and seems to be covered with frozen ices. In recent years it has been fairly close to the Sun and enjoying a brief summer. Surface ices have vaporised, producing a thin atmosphere. However, it is now retreating into the cold depths of the Solar System and this atmosphere will soon freeze again.

For many years, Pluto was accepted as the ninth planet from the Sun (even though it sometimes comes closer than Neptune). Today, it is regarded as a "dwarf planet". It is also one of the largest members of the Kuiper Belt, a family of icy worlds that occupy the space beyond Neptune.'

## Hints

If the students get stuck, Plutobot could give them the answer after 2 to 3 attempts.

## More information

## Possible restrictions

Working with text and spelling could be tricky for players with SLDs. Make sure that the layout of the text suits them! You have all our recommendations in our guide on the website.

## References

✓ Source of the text:

[https://www.esa.int/kids/en/learn/Our Universe/Planets and moons/Pluto](https://www.esa.int/kids/en/learn/Our_Universe/Planets_and_moons/Pluto)

