Exercise C5: The Dwarf Planets

Student name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Check the box with the correct answer.

Question 1: From the information displayed in the main window, what is another reason why Pluto is not a major planet?

- ☐ **a.** It is too small to be a planet.
- ☐ **b.** It is too far away from the Sun.
- ☐ **c.** Its orbit is highly inclined to the plane of the ecliptic relative to the other eight planets.
- ☐ **d.** It was formed after the other planets.

Question 2: What else makes Pluto's orbit different from the eight major planets?

- ☐ **a.** It is more eccentric than the orbit of any gas giant planet.
- ☐ **b.** Its orbit intersects that of a planet.
- ☐ **c.** Both a and b.
- ☐ **d.** Neither a nor b.

Question 3: How far is the center of mass of the Pluto-Charon system from the center of Pluto?

- ☐ **a.** 2130 km
- ☐ **b.** 2400 km
- ☐ **c.** 1200 km
- ☐ **d.** 2130 km

Question 4: How does the position of the center of mass compare with Pluto's radius of about 1200 km?

- ☐ **a.** The two have about the same value.
- ☐ **b.** The center of mass is inside Pluto.
- ☐ **c.** The center of mass is at the surface of Pluto.
- ☐ **d.** The center of mass is above the surface of Pluto.

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Question 5: What is the perihelion distance of Eris?

- ☐ **a.** 32 AU
- ☐ **b.** 42 AU
- ☐ **c.** 65 AU
- ☐ **d.** 98 AU