



DATA SHEET

SOLAR SYSTEM: MAKEMAKE

Named after the Rapanui god of fertility, Makemake is located in the Kuiper Belt, a region outside the orbit of Neptune. Slightly smaller than Pluto, Makemake is the second-brightest object in the Kuiper Belt as seen from Earth (while Pluto is the brightest). It takes about 305 Earth years for this dwarf planet to make one trip around the sun.

Makemake holds an important place in the history of solar system studies because it—along with Eris—was one of the objects whose discovery prompted the International Astronomical Union to reconsider the definition of a planet and to create the new group of dwarf planets in 2006.

SOME FACTS ABOUT MAKEMAKE

- 1 Makemake is 45.8 Astronomical Units (AU) from the Sun. (6,847,000,000 km)
- 2 Average temperature on Makemake is about 40 K (−230 °C),
- 3 Makemake's surface is not homogeneous. The majority of it is covered by nitrogen and methane ices with albedo range 78 - 90%. 5% of the surface has an albedo range from 2-12%
- 4 It takes light 6'20" to travel from the Sun to Makemake
- 5 Makemake follows a highly inclined orbit at 29° and a moderate eccentricity of about 0.16
- 6 Makemake takes 305 Earth years to make one trip around the sun. As Makemake orbits the sun, it completes one rotation every 22 and a half hours, making its day length similar to Earth and Mars.
- 7 Makemake has one provisional moon, nicknamed MK 2. It is more than 1,300 times fainter than Makemake. MK 2 was seen approximately 20 921km from the dwarf planet, and its radius is estimated to be about 80 km.



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