

MAKEMAKE



1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,070
Astronomers using the Hubble
Space Telescope just discovered

2
00:00:03,070 --> 00:00:07,307
a moon orbiting dwarf planet
Makemake. Makemake is in a

3
00:00:07,307 --> 00:00:10,878
region beyond the orbit of
Neptune called the Kuiper Belt.

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00:00:10,878 --> 00:00:13,347
Several of the largest Kuiper
Belt Objects are known to have

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00:00:13,347 --> 00:00:17,751
moons, and as of April 2016,
that now includes Makemake, the

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00:00:17,751 --> 00:00:19,987
second brightest and third
largest known object past the

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00:00:19,987 --> 00:00:23,023
orbit of Neptune. Using
observations taken in 2015 with

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00:00:23,023 --> 00:00:26,326
Hubble's Wide Field Camera 3, a
team of astronomers from the

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00:00:26,326 --> 00:00:28,896
Southwest Research Institute,
Lowell Observatory, and NASA's

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00:00:28,896 --> 00:00:30,931
Goddard Space Flight Center
estimate this moon to be

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00:00:30,931 --> 00:00:34,768

approximately 100 miles in diameter. Hubble will need to

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00:00:34,768 --> 00:00:37,204

take further observations to see exactly how frequently this moon

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00:00:37,204 --> 00:00:40,941

orbits Makemake. Astronomers hope to use this orbiting moon

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00:00:40,941 --> 00:00:43,076

to better estimate Makemake's mass, which will give us a

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00:00:43,076 --> 00:00:46,146

better idea of the dwarf planet's overall density and

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00:00:46,146 --> 00:00:49,182

thus its bulk composition. The Hubble Space Telescope has been

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00:00:49,182 --> 00:00:51,818

instrumental in the study of objects in the outer solar

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00:00:51,818 --> 00:00:54,121

system. Hubble also discovered four of the five moons orbiting