



1  
00:00:01,569 --> 00:00:05,029

There is a mysterious zone far out in our solar system

2  
00:00:05,029 --> 00:00:12,330

It's a region of ice worlds, some solitary, some with moons.

3  
00:00:12,330 --> 00:00:21,680

Their names may be unfamiliar Eris, Makemake, Haumea, but they hold clues to all our origins.

4  
00:00:21,680 --> 00:00:27,109

And the first of these worlds and the one we will reach in 2015 is the king of the Kuiper

5  
00:00:27,109 --> 00:00:32,040

Belt – Pluto  
The long journey of NASA's New Horizons

6  
00:00:32,040 --> 00:00:39,350

Mission began in 2006 aboard America's biggest baddest rocket tricked out with every conceivable

7  
00:00:39,350 --> 00:00:40,350

booster.

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00:00:40,350 --> 00:00:44,690

We built a very light spacecraft and bought a very large launch vehicle and the combination

9  
00:00:44,690 --> 00:00:45,690

is ferocious.

10  
00:00:45,690 --> 00:00:52,210

But in some sense, it all began in 1930 with Clyde Tombaugh, 24 years old and fresh off

11  
00:00:52,210 --> 00:00:58,280

the farm in Kansas, but willing to spend long hours scanning star fields to find a moving

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00:00:58,280 --> 00:01:02,440

point of light -- humanities first glimpse of Pluto.

13

00:01:02,440 --> 00:01:08,159

The dream of actually getting to Pluto began with a 6 year old boy in love with science,

14

00:01:08,159 --> 00:01:13,670

who grew up to lead a team of brilliant researchers and engineers with dogged persistence thru

15

00:01:13,670 --> 00:01:17,410

decades of planning and building and testing.

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00:01:17,410 --> 00:01:21,030

A race against time just to get to the launch pad.

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00:01:21,030 --> 00:01:26,190

Exploring the outer solar system, because it's so far, takes a lot of time.

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00:01:26,190 --> 00:01:31,100

It requires a lot of patience, a lot of dedication, a lot of perseverance.

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00:01:31,100 --> 00:01:32,100

But it's the frontier.

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00:01:32,100 --> 00:01:37,330

Assuming all goes well with Pluto, NASA may choose to extend the adventure, further out

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00:01:37,330 --> 00:01:38,770

into the Kuiper belt.

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00:01:38,770 --> 00:01:41,360

The solar systems mysterious third zone.

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00:01:41,360 --> 00:01:45,399

This is maybe the one change in my life time  
that we're going to get a spacecraft out

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00:01:45,399 --> 00:01:49,030

there to look up close at one of these Kuiper  
belt objects.

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00:01:49,030 --> 00:01:54,340

December 6, 2014 – we have nominal wake  
up of the New Horizons spacecraft.

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00:01:54,340 --> 00:01:57,579

New Horizons wakes up for the last time from  
hibernation

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00:01:57,579 --> 00:02:03,090

New Horizons is speeding towards Pluto at  
a phenomenal rate and we can't wait for

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00:02:03,090 --> 00:02:04,090

it to get there.

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00:02:04,090 --> 00:02:09,190

January 27, 2015, six months of approach science  
begins.

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00:02:09,190 --> 00:02:18,690

July 14, 2015, New Horizons long journey,  
three billion miles, nine years in flight

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00:02:18,690 --> 00:02:26,360

and 85 years of speculation about Pluto, climaxes  
in one day of close approach and fly by

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00:02:26,360 --> 00:02:28,830

You know, we're rounding third base and heading home.