

Mapping Pluto – example

Although NASA scientists have not yet made a complete map of the surface of Pluto, students can make theirs! Here is an example of a map of Pluto and explanations of the regions that we came up with. The yellow arrows point to circular features that may be craters.

Area 2

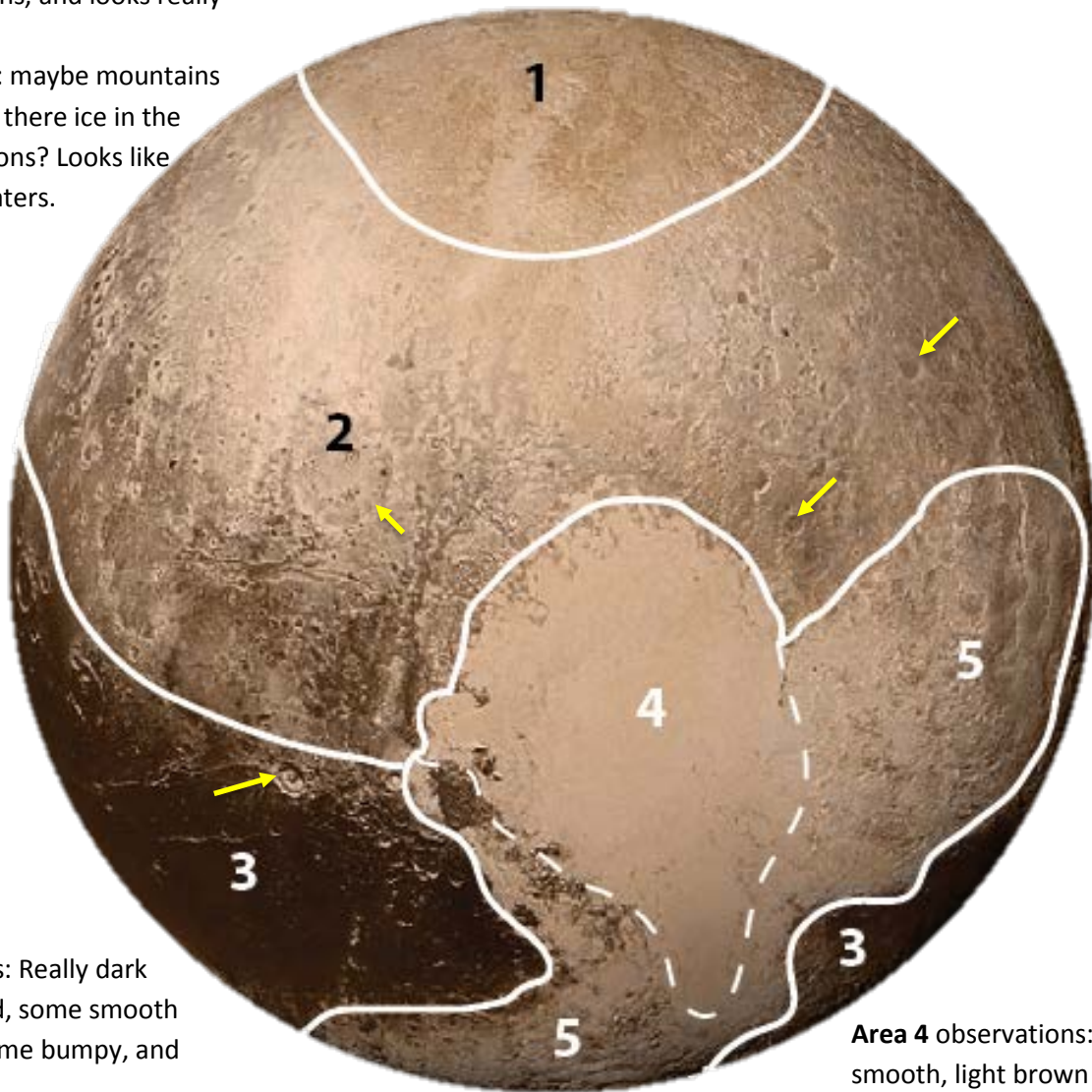
Observations: has craters, light and dark regions, and looks really rough.

Interpretation: maybe mountains in this area? Is there ice in the smoother regions? Looks like quite a few craters.

Area 1

Observations: medium brown in color

Interpretation: maybe ice covered? North Pole



Area 3

Observations: Really dark brownish red, some smooth areas and some bumpy, and it has craters.

Interpretation: probably does not have ice, maybe the area has a dark kind of rock?

Area 5

Observations: some smooth and some very bumpy areas, light and dark brown, few craters.

Interpretation: The darker areas could be mountains and the smooth, light areas ice?

Area 4 observations: very smooth, light brown in color, no craters. This is an area is covered in thick ice (including methane and nitrogen ice).

The ice is spreading to area 5.