BBC LEARNING ENGLISH
Media English 媒体英语
Solar System's ninth planet?
太阳系的第九颗行星？

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美国天文学家说，他们有强有力的证据表明，在我们的太阳系中还存在着第九颗行星，就在冥王星遥遥之外的地方。加州理工学院（Caltech）的天文学家对这颗行星应该处在天空里的什么位置有一个模糊的概念。他们的这项工作肯定会激发一场试图追踪行星的运动。以下是BBC Jonathan Amos 的报道：

The idea that there might be a **so-called** Planet X moving in the distant reaches of the Solar System has been **debated** for more than 100 years. It's fallen in and out of **vogue**.

The latest **claim** is based on an analysis of the movements of objects in a band of icy material orbiting more than 3bn miles away known as the Kuiper Belt. The only way these **alignments** can be explained, say the Caltech team, is if an object ten times as massive as the Earth is out there somewhere moving perhaps 20 times as far away as Neptune, the current most distant planet.

The group hope their research will spark a telescope campaign to try to track it down.

One reason the claim is being taken so seriously is that it comes from the **renowned** astronomer Mike Brown. It was his discoveries in the outer Solar System that eventually led Pluto losing its planet **status** in 2006.

词汇表

so-called	所谓的，号称的
debated	（动词过去时）辩论，争论
vogue	模糊的
claim	声称
alignments	（空间）序列
renowned	著名的，享有盛名的
status	地位

测验

请听报道并回答下列问题。

1. What could indicate the existence of the ninth planet?

2. How big is the new planet thought to be?

3. Why are astronomers taking the idea that there is another planet in the Solar System seriously?

4. What happened to Pluto in 2006?

答案

1. What could indicate the existence of the ninth planet?
The particular way objects move in a band of icy material known as the Kuiper Belt.

2. How big is the new planet thought to be?
It's supposed to be ten times as massive as the Earth.

3. Why are astronomers taking the idea that there is another planet in the Solar System seriously?
Because it was announced by Mike Brown, who is a renowned astronomer.

4. What happened to Pluto in 2006?
It lost its planet status.