Introductory Astronomy

Homework 17: Pluto, Kuiper Belt, Oort Cloud, and Comets Not to be handed in. Homework solutions are posted already.

1. “Let’s play Jeopardy! For $100, the answer is: He/she discovered the planet Uranus.”
   Who is ____________, Alex?

2. Pluto was discovered on 1930 February 18 by:

3. The actual method of Pluto’s discovery was:
   a) blink comparison of sky photographs taken at different times.  b) radar ranging.  c) just visual searching of the sky.  d) by X-ray observations.  e) by psychic power.

4. Pluto’s moon, discovered 1978 July 2 by James Christy of the U.S. Naval Observatory, is called:
   a) Sedna.  b) Charon.  c) Persephone.  d) Dante.  e) Virgil.

5. Pluto’s status is disputable because it is:
   a) too far from the Sun.  b) too close to the Sun.  c) not a gas giant.  d) a gas giant.  e) probably just a very large Kuiper Belt object. Comparable or larger Kuiper Belt objects may be discovered.

6. The solar system seems to have two reservoirs of icy bodies from which comets originate:
   a) Valles Marineris and Olympus Mons.  b) Phobos and Deimos.  c) Ishtar Terra and Aphrodite Terra.  d) the Asteroid Belt and the rings of Saturn.  e) the Kuiper Belt and the Oort Cloud.

7. “Let’s play Jeopardy! For $100, the answer is: This trans-Neptunian object is named for the Inuit goddess of the underworld sea, aquatic mammals, and the dead.”
   a) What is ____________, Alex?