

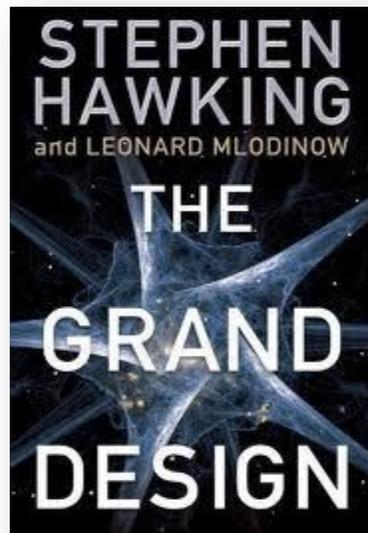


Stephen William Hawking, (born 8 January 1942) is a British theoretical physicist, cosmologist, and author. His key scientific works to date have included theorems regarding gravitational singularities in the framework of general relativity, and the theoretical prediction that black holes should emit radiation, which is today known as Hawking radiation (or sometimes as Bekenstein–Hawking radiation).





He is an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, a lifetime member of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, and in 2009 was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the United States. Hawking was the Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at the University of Cambridge between 1979 and 2009. Subsequently, he became research director at the university's Centre for Theoretical Cosmology. Hawking has a motor neurons disease related to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, a condition that has progressed over the years. He is now almost completely paralyzed and communicates through a speech generating device. He has been married twice and has three children. Hawking has achieved success with works of popular science in which he discusses his own theories and cosmology in general; these include [A Brief History of Time](#), which stayed on the British Sunday Times best-sellers list for a record-breaking 237 weeks.



Things you should know about Stephen Hawking

After being diagnosed with a rare form of motor neuron disease – amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) – at the age of 22, Hawking was given just a few years to live.

Hawking is as much a celebrity as he is a scientist, having appeared on The Simpsons, Star Trek and having provided narration for a British Telecom commercial that was later sampled on a Pink Floyd album.



Hawking has credited his marriage in 1965 to Jane Wilde, a language student, as a turning point in his life at a time when he was unsure as to what the point of a degree was if he was to die soon. They went on to have three children – Robert, Lucy, and Timothy.

During the 1970s Hawking produced a stream of first class research, including probably his most important contribution to cosmology: the discovery of hawking radiation, which allows a black hole to leak energy and gradually fade away to nothing.

In the 1980s, Professor Hawking and Professor Jim Hartle proposed a model of the universe which had no boundaries in space or time. The concept was described in A Brief History of Time, which sold 25 million copies worldwide.

He was made a CBE in 1982.

Among some of his more unconventional theories, Professor Hawking has predicted the end of humanity – due to global warming, a new killer virus, or the impact of a large comet.

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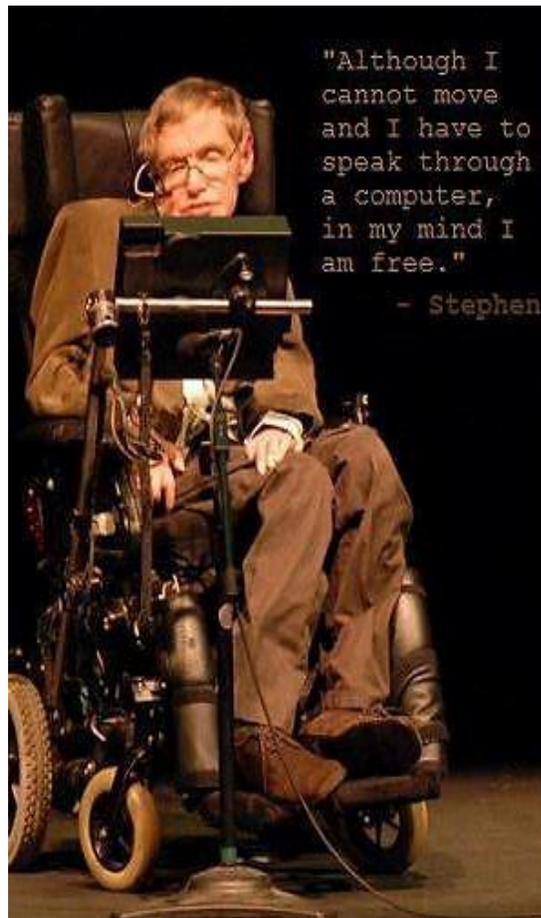
Hawking was the Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at the University of Cambridge for 30 years, taking up the post in 1979 and retiring on 1 October 2009. He is also a Fellow of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge having held many other academic positions.

In recent years, Professor Hawking has examined the relationship between science and religion, writing a 2010 book Grand Design, which argues that evoking God is not necessary to explain the origins of the universe.



Hawking's words

“The idea that the universe had a specific time of origin has been philosophically resisted by some very distinguished scientists. We could begin with Arthur Eddington, who experimentally confirmed Einstein's general theory of relativity in 1919. Philosophically, the notion of a beginning to the present order is repugnant to me and I should like to find a genuine loophole. We must allow evolution an infinite amount of time to get started.”



I think that Stephen Hawking is a great British theoretical physicist, cosmologist, and author. Many people say that he is a Science hero and not just people that admire him say that. Even me, I say this, too, and I really don't know him that well. He knows what he is doing in the right time. He is a great person and no matter what his condition is, we still appreciate all his hard work and words.



Juliana Jurado, 8th Grade, RYSS