

Stephen Hawking

Physicists

Stephen W. Hawking, Stephen William Hawking, Prof. Stephen Hawking, Professor Stephen Hawking, S.W. Hawking, S. Hawking

Theoretical Physicist, Cosmologist

Briton [Famous British Men](#)

Agnosticism, Atheism, Pantheism

08 January 1942 AD [Famous 8th January Birthdays](#)

Capricorn [Capricorn Men](#)

Oxford

Frank Hawking

Isobel Hawking

Edward Hawking, Philippa Hawking, Mary Hawking

Jane Wilde, Elaine Mason

Lucy Hawking, Timothy Hawking, Robert Hawking

1962 - University of Oxford, 1966-03 - Trinity Hall, Cambridge, St Albans School, St Albans High School for Girls

Microsoft Research

1978 - Albert Einstein Award
1988 - Wolf Prize
1989 - Prince of Asturias Award

ALSO LISTED IN

ALSO KNOWN AS

FAMOUS AS

NATIONALITY

RELIGION

BORN ON

ZODIAC SIGN

BORN IN

FATHER

MOTHER

SIBLINGS

SPOUSES

CHILDREN

EDUCATION

FOUNDER/CO-FOUNDER

AWARDS



Stephen William Hawking is an English theoretical physicist, cosmologist, author and Director of Research at the Centre for Theoretical Cosmology within the University of Cambridge. His key exploration is in the areas of theoretical cosmology, focusing on the evolution of the universe as governed by the laws of general relativity. He is most known for his work in the study of black

holes. With the theoretical prediction that black holes emit radiation, a theory called 'Hawking radiation', he became the first to set forth a cosmology explained by a union of the general theory of relativity and quantum mechanics. Hawking suffers from a rare and life-threatening condition of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, a condition he has suffered for all of his adult life. It started when he was only 21 years old while he was pursuing PhD from Cambridge University and now is almost completely paralyzed and communicates through a speech generating device. But not succumbing to the despair of the disease, Hawking devoted all of his life to his work and research. He was the Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at the University of Cambridge for around three decades and is an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. For his contribution to the study of universe and his pioneering work in cosmology, he was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

Read more at <http://www.thefamouspeople.com/profiles/stephen-hawking-5456.php#L4hso0qZCVU57e4Y.99>

Career

- Hawking became a member of the Institute of Astronomy in Cambridge in 1968 and the discoveries of cosmologist, Roger Penrose, on black hole really fascinated him as he himself was working on the phenomena that began the Universe.
- In 1970, Hawking discovered the second law of black hole dynamics— that the event horizon of a black hole can never get smaller. Along with, James M. Bardeen and Brandon Carter, he proposed the four laws of black hole mechanics.
- Hawking visited Moscow in 1973 and his discussions with Yakov Borisovich Zel'dovich and Alexei Starobinsky helped him to come up with 'Hawking radiation'. In the following year, he became a Fellow of the Royal Society.
- He started to get more recognition for his discoveries through his print and TV interviews and in 1975 he was awarded the Eddington Medal and the Pius XI Gold Medal, followed by the Dannie Heineman Prize, the Maxwell Prize, etc.
- Hawking was now appointed as a professor with a chair in gravitational physics in 1977 and received the Albert Einstein Medal and an honorary doctorate from the University of Oxford.
- He gradually started losing control over his speech and it became increasing difficult to understand him but that this did not stop him from getting appointed as the Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at the Cambridge University in 1979.
- In 1982, Hawking and Gary Gibbons organized a Nuffield Workshop on the topic 'The Very Early Universe' at Cambridge University, which focused principally on the cosmological inflation theory.
- He published a model, the 'Hartle-Hawking state' with Jim Hartle, which stated that before the Big Bang, time did not exist and the concept of the beginning of the universe is meaningless.
- In 1985, he lost his voice after a tracheotomy. As a result of this, he required 24-hour care. His condition caught attention of a Californian computer programmer, who invented a speaking program that could be directed by head or eye movement.
- Hawking gained the international prominence for the first time in 1988 with the publication of 'A Brief History of Time'. It was meant to be a simplified version of cosmology for the masses and became an instant bestseller.
- In 1993, he co-edited a book on Euclidean quantum gravity with Gary Gibbons, and published a collected edition of his own articles on black holes and his series of lectures were published as 'The Nature of Space and Time'.
- A famous collection of essays, interviews and talk titled 'Black Holes and Baby Universes and Other Essays' was published in 1993. It was followed by a six-part television series 'Stephen Hawking's Universe' and a companion book.
- He wrote an easy to read book on cosmology in 2001, 'The Universe in Nutshell', which was followed by, 'A Briefer History of Time (2005)', 'God Created the Integers (2006)', 'God's Secret Key to the Universe (2007)', etc.

- He made constant appearance on television during this period, in documentaries like—‘The Real Stephen Hawking (2001)’, ‘Stephen Hawking: Profile (2002)’, ‘Hawking (2004)’, ‘Stephen Hawking, Master of the Universe (2008)’, etc.
- Hawking retired as Lucasian Professor of Mathematics in 2009, owing to University rules and regulations. He has continued to work as a director of research at the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics.

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Major Works

- Hawking’s key exploration is in the areas of theoretical cosmology, focusing on the evolution of the universe as governed by the laws of general relativity. He is most known for his work in the study of black holes.

Awards & Achievements

- Hawking became a Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1982 and since then, he has been honored with the highest degree awards like— the Gold Medal of the Royal Astronomical Society, the Paul Dirac Medal, etc.
- Other honors include—the Wolf Prize, he was named a Companion of Honor by Her Highness, Julius Edgar Lilienfeld Prize, the Copley Medal, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Russian Fundamental Physics Prize, etc.

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Trivia

- Stephen W. Hawking Science Museum in San Salvador, El Salvador, the Stephen Hawking Building in Cambridge and the Stephen Hawking Centre at Perimeter Institute in Canada—are all named after him.
- He participated in zero-gravity flight in a ‘Vomit Comet’, courtesy of Zero Gravity Corporation, during which he experienced weightlessness eight times in 2007.
- His first wife, Jane, wrote books like, ‘Travelling to Infinity’, ‘My Life with Stephen’, etc.
- Jane met organist Jonathan Hellyer Jones while singing in a church choir in 1977 and they developed a love relationship but Hawking did not object to it saying that as long as she still loved him, he is alright with their platonic relationship.
- He appeared on the famous American sitcom, ‘Big Bang Theory’.
- Hawking believes that human life is at risk and said that, "a sudden nuclear war, a genetically engineered virus or other dangers we have not yet thought of" can wipe us off the earth.

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