

Stephen Hawking was a theoretical physicist and cosmologist, widely considered to be one of the greatest scientists of his time. He was the first scientist to devise a cosmology that married the general theory of relativity and quantum mechanics, and he made huge contributions to our understanding of black holes. Hawking wrote a number of popular science books including the bestseller A Brief History of Time. Advertisements. Early Life and Education. Stephen Hawking was born on January 8, 1942 in Oxford, England, UK. His father was Frank Hawking, an English biologist; his mother was Isobel Wal Stephen Hawking's PhD thesis was accessed more than two million times within days of it being made available to the public, it has been revealed. Prof Hawking's 1966 work proved so popular on the day of its release it crashed the publications section of Cambridge University's website. More than 500,000 people have also tried to download the paper, titled "Properties of expanding universes". Dr Arthur Smith, from the university, called the figures "monumental". Image copyright Graham CopeKoga. Image caption Professor Hawking is still working at Cambridge Unive LONDON -- Stephen Hawking was a prolific author with a knack for making books on challenging scientific topics engaging to a wide spectrum of readers. The physicist is best known for his bestselling 1988 classic "A Brief History of Time: From the Big Bang to Black Holes," which was intended to help people without a strong scientific background understand key questions of physics and human existence. In it, he discusses the origins of the universe and its future. Among his other books are Hawking said his thinking had been influenced by significant advancements in physics that had followed publication of "A Brief History of Time."