

Stephen Hawking 1942-2018

Physicist Stephen Hawking – the world-famous author of *A Brief History of Time* – has died at the age of 76.

For most of his life he was almost completely paralyzed by motor neurone disease

■ **Jan 8, 1942:** Born Oxford, England

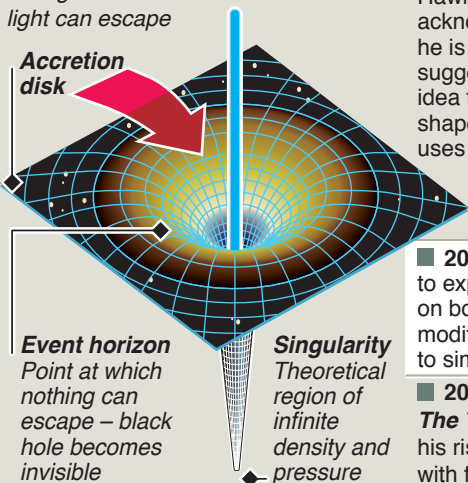
■ **1963:** First diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis

■ **1966:** Completes doctorate, awarded fellowship at Cambridge

■ **1968:** Publishes highly-technical *Large Scale Structure of Space Time*

■ **1970:** By integrating cornerstones of modern physics – *Newtonian Theory of Relativity* and *quantum theory* – Hawking proposes that black holes leak energy and fade to nothing, phenomenon known as *Hawking radiation*

Accepted theory: Black holes are regions of space where gravity is so strong that not even light can escape



■ **1976:** Hawking argues that when black hole disappears all information about everything ever inside hole disappears too. This leads to **Black Hole paradox**: If information is lost forever then science can never know the past or predict the future

■ **1985:** After catching pneumonia he undergoes tracheotomy. Unable to speak naturally – communicates with head-controlled speech synthesizer

■ **1988:** *A Brief History of Time* published, goes on to sell more than 10 million copies

■ **1993-2002:** Writes books, essays and scientific articles explaining ways in which universe may be governed. Hawking's celebrity status is acknowledged by *The Simpsons* – he is depicted drinking with Homer, suggesting he might steal Homer's idea that universe is doughnut-shaped. Rock group *Pink Floyd* uses his synthesised voice for introduction to *Keep Talking*, on their 1994 album *The Division Bell*

■ **2007:** Becomes first quadriplegic to experience weightlessness on board so-called "vomit comet", modified plane specially designed to simulate zero gravity

■ **2014:** Life story portrayed in film *The Theory of Everything*, charting his rise to fame and relationship with first wife, Jane