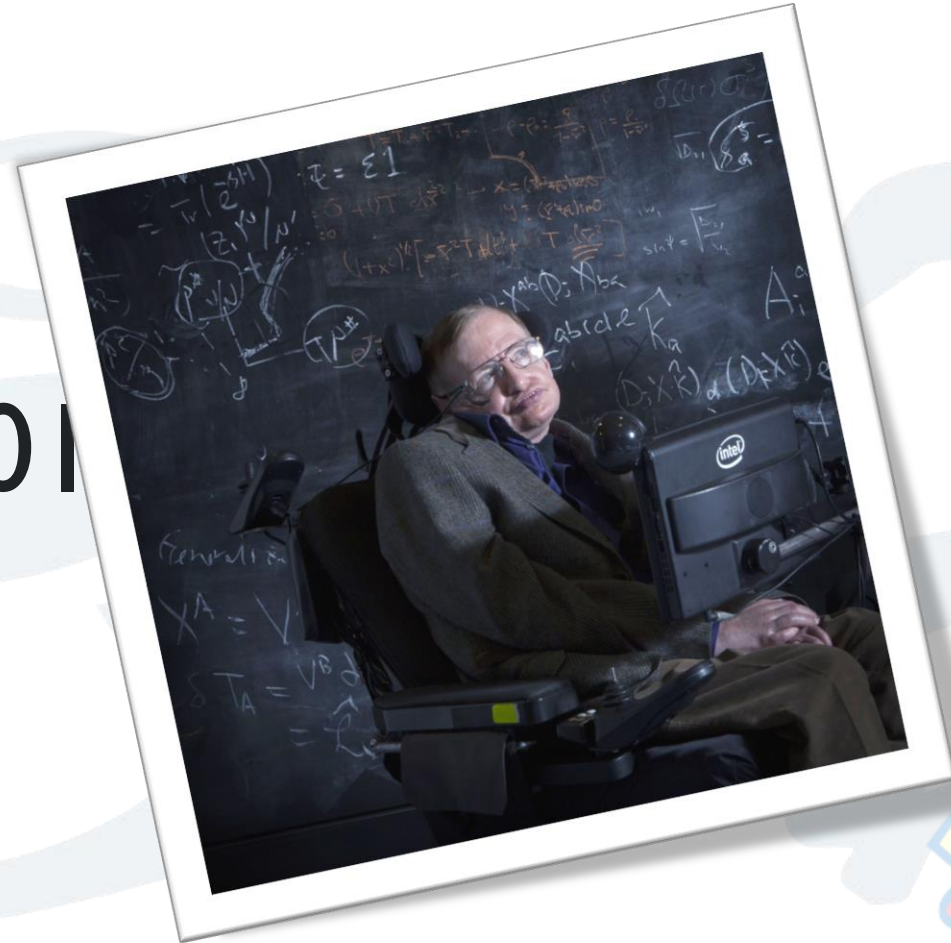


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A Brief History of Hawking





The Passing of an Intellectual Giant

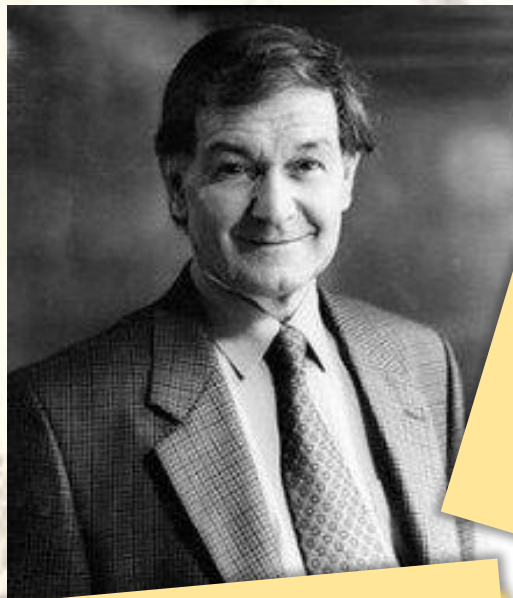
Many of you, like me, will have woken up on Wednesday morning to read the news that Professor Stephen Hawking, celebrated astrophysicist and revolutionary thinker, had died. Since that time, the media has been full of tributes and obituaries of a man whose impact on world scientific thought had been profound.

Given that Hawking was a great exponent of linking together areas of knowledge, of lateral thought and encouraging people to think laterally, it would seem appropriate to celebrate him in this edition of SparkPoint – not for what he himself achieved and accomplished (which has already been highlighted in so many articles) but for the impact he has had as a moment of intellectual ignition in others.

Despite the serious setbacks he experienced in his own life, Hawking never lost his keen sense of humour and an ability to perceive humanity as something special, emotional and unique – something for which he will be long remembered.



As well as his scientific notoriety, Hawking rose to fame as a regular, recurrent character on The Simpsons and Family Guy. Interestingly, he believed that by demonstrating his ability to caricature and make light aspects of his illness, he was able to make it more bearable and demonstrate to other sufferers that it was possible to lead a fulfilled and extraordinary life. Click [here](#) for more.



SP1753 Singularities

Along with Roger Penrose, Hawking was able to prove the existence of singularities (a one-dimensional point of infinite mass) which had profound ramifications for the scientific understanding of space and time. Click [here](#) for a quick guide.

SP1754 George and the Big Bang

Stephen Hawking was firmly committed to the idea that a scientific understanding of the universe should be communicated to children early on in life. Working with his daughter Lucy he produced a series of [adventure stories](#) to do just that.



SP1755 The Hawking Foundation

Always keen for others to develop, further and even disprove his theories, Stephen Hawking established a Foundation in 2015 which would fund scientific research and also support those living with Motor Neurone disease. Click [here](#) for more.



THE
STEPHEN
HAWKING
FOUNDATION