STEM HEROES

Stephen Hawking

GENIUS SPACE SCIENTIST

Stephen Hawking was born on 8 January 1942 in Oxford, England. When he was young, he loved to explore and tinker with gadgets, and was fascinated with how things worked.

He studied science at university, then went on to study cosmology (the study of the universe).

At the age of 21, Hawking was diagnosed with motor neurone disease. Over time, this disease made him paralysed. This meant he had to use a wheelchair to get around and a computerised voice synthesiser to communicate. Despite these challenges, Hawking didn't give up on his dreams.

Hawking made several groundbreaking discoveries about black holes. He showed that black holes give out energy and could evaporate over time. This idea changed the way scientists understand the universe. He also wrote books to make complex science easier to understand.

Hawking is remembered not only for his scientific contributions but also for showing that even when life gets tough, determination and passion can lead to amazing achievements.

INVENTORS & MAKERS



1. How did motor neurone disease change Stephen Hawking's life?
2. Explain what is meant by "groundbreaking" in this text.
3. Why do you think the author included information about what Hawking enjoyed as a child?
4. How do we know that Hawking made an important contribution to science? Use evidence from the text to justify your answer.
5. In a short paragraph, explain why Stephen Hawking deserves to be considered a STEM Hero.