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A brief history of time stephen hawking pdf download

As a graduate student, Hawking was diagnosed with what disease? Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS) When he was a graduate student, Hawking was diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), or Lou Gehrig's disease. It's called motor neuron disease in England. Hawking was doubly unfortunate, as the rare condition typically doesn't strike people until they are in their 50s. When Stephen Hawking died on Wednesday at age 76, the scientific world lost one of its brightest and fiercest stars. It also lost one of its most effective ambassadors, a pop culture icon whose accessible science writing, including many incredible quotes from A Brief History of Time, has inspired entire generations of readers to keep learning, keep exploring, and keep asking questions about the universe around them.When he set out to write A Brief History of Time, Hawkings wanted to create an accessible book about the origin, structure, and future of the universe that every day readers could pick up and understand. His writing may have been about complex phenomena like the Big Bang and black holes, but according to his longtime book editor Peter Guzzardi, Hawkings was "the rare academic who wanted just that — to bring his esoteric scholarly work to the attention of the masses." With his popular science books, that is exactly what he did. Despite being dubbed "the most popular book never read," A Brief History of Time is in fact one of bestselling popular science titles in the world. Originally published in 1988, it has has sold over 10 million copies worldwide over the last 30 years, and has been translated into more than 35 languages. As his former colleague once famously put it, Hawking has "sold more books on physics than Madonna has on sex."Hawkings took it upon himself to explain the popularity of his book in the introduction of its illustrated edition, saying "The success of A Brief History indicates that there is widespread interest in the big questions like: Where did we come from? And why is the universe the way it is?" Thanks to the famed physicist's many contributions, including his accessible popular science books, every day readers have an opportunity to try and answer those very things.A Brief History of Time by Stephen Hawking, \$10.63, AmazonStephen Hawkings may be best known as a man of science, but these 11 stunning quotes from A Brief History of Time prove the physicist had a way with words, too."Even if there is only one possible unified theory, it is just a set of rules and equations. What is it that breathes fire into the equations and makes a universe for them to describe? The usual approach of science of constructing a mathematical model cannot answer the questions of why there should be a universe for the model to describe. Why does the universe go to all the bother of existing?"There should be no boundary to human endeavor.""Ever since the dawn of civilization, people have not been content to see events as unconnected and inexplicable. They have craved an understanding of the underlying order in the world. Today we still yearn to know why we are here and where we came from. Humanity's deepest desire for knowledge is justification enough for our continuing quest. And our goal is nothing less than a complete description of the universe we live in.""However, if we do discover a complete theory, it should in time be understandable in broad principle by everyone, not just a few scientists. Then we shall all, philosophers, scientists, and just ordinary people, be able to take part in the discussion of the question of why it is that we and the universe exist. If we find the answer to that, it would be the ultimate triumph of human reason — for then we would know the mind of God." "Equations are more important to me, because politics is for the present, but an equation is something for eternity.""I am just a child who has never grown up. I still keep asking these 'how' and 'why' questions. Occasionally, I find an answer.""An expanding universe does not preclude a creator, but it does place limits on when he might have carried out his job.""Nevertheless, it seems clear that there are relatively few ranges of values for the numbers that would allow the development of any form of intelligent life. Most sets of values would give rise to universes that, although they might be very beautiful, would contain no one able to wonder at that beauty.""We see the universe the way it is because if it were different we would not be here to observe it.""The universe doesn't allow perfection.""Science seems to have uncovered a set of laws that, within the limits set by the uncertainty principle, tell us how the universe will develop with time, if we know its state at any one time. These laws may have originally been decreed by God, but it appears that he has since left the universe to evolve according to them and does not now intervene in it." As designers, over time we tend to become experts on typography. We get to know the typefaces we use intimately, learning about the shapes, nuances and character - no pun - of each one. We might fall in love with fonts in certain weights or styles, or even individual letters. Favourites are adored, and equally some fonts are shunned and avoided. And that's why our new book - 100 Best Typefaces Ever - produced in association with FontShop AG and on sale now, is absolutely unmissable. Let us explain a little further why we produced this book...Text is one of the core elements of any design, alongside imagery and negative space. The message you have to communicate will be spelled out here using combinations of our 26 letter alphabet. Most Western languages descend, in part at least, from Latin. Therefore it's no wonder that our alphabet today derives from the 22 characters used in Ancient Rome. Of course, the Romans weren't the first to have a written language. The Sumerians, Egyptians, Mayans and many other ancient cultures used pictograms. Each little carved image was a word, and they used thousands of pictograms to record their scientific and historical achievements, and their beliefs.What's special about Latin, and Greek before it, is that each graphic shape - or letter - represents a sound rather than a whole word. The sounds together form the words, and these give our communications meaning. By writing them down we can give the message permanence. They can be written in stone, or on paper. And thanks to Johannes Gutenberg's invention of the printing press in the late 1440s, we can make many copies and distribute the communication far and wide.Calligraphic handwritingIn Gutenberg's day, books were copied out by scribes - usually in monasteries - in calligraphic handwriting. Carolingian script was being replaced by the more fashionable Gothic hand with all those heavy vertical strokes, and dainty curved, horizontal and diagonal lines. Inevitably, the artisans of Gutenberg's day sought to replicate the Gothic letters in the moveable carved blocks they created to go on the presses.Soon, these type cutters were taking inspiration from other forms of writing. Like the humanist philosophers of the Enlightenment who were rediscovering and classical texts, poetry and history books, these craftsmen looked at everything from Roman inscriptions to illuminated Bibles from the Dark Ages to come up with new letterforms. It was their job to print the texts of antiquity for 15th and 16th century audiences.That, arguably, was the beginning of typography, one of the most obsessively detailed forms of creativity. The question is, why is it important that new and different interpretations of letters, numbers and punctuation were developed? Legibility is one issue. Once we've learned to read our brains no longer look at the individual letters. We see words as shapes, or groups of shapes. As our minds thirstily drink up the information in the text, we don't want to pause to try and mentally swallow a lump of lettering we can't recognise. And that old Gothic text is chunky stuff. So it's a good thing type cutters began rationalising the alphabets they used for legibility.Secondly, a choice of typefaces is desirable for aesthetic reasons. You could compare design to the field of architecture. An architect couldn't and wouldn't build structures using just one type of brick. As typographer and FontShop co-founder Erik Spiekermann has pointed out, the letters are like bricks, and you need more than one type of brick to build with.Letters represent soundsSimilarly, let's not forget that printed letters represent sounds. When we speak, we use all sorts of pitches, tones and inflections. With different typefaces, we can give the written word intonation and fill it with expression. The right font means a billboard can truly shout, a novel can thrill and seduce you with its soft burr, while a favourite website makes brings a giggle with its chirpy reportage.Yes, the content plays a large role in all of this, but as a designer part of your job is to give the content its full due. The typeface you choose plays a huge roll in that process.As a designer part of your job is to give the content its full dueIt's now over 500 years since the first printed books appeared in Western Europe. Back then, the letters were made by hand, and some of today's most popular fonts still trace those venerable lines. Today, creating a typeface can be equally laborious, involving hours of study and numerous phases of appraisal and refinement. A working digital font may need well over 500 characters too, in order to be sold across Europe, or worldwide. There are so many designers out there looking for fresh ways of expressing things in text, while on the other hand there's been a proliferation of typefaces ever since the 1450s. This has accelerated in the digital age. Some online foundries are selling around 80,000 fonts and then you've got all the free fonts out there too. Software means - theoretically - just about any designer can learn to become a typographer.100 Best Typefaces EverFontShop AG, the renowned type foundry, conducted a survey based on historical relevance, sales at FontShop.com and aesthetic quality. With a few additions from the experts at Creative Bloq and Computer Arts magazine, the best fonts ever were selected for the new book, 100 Best Typefaces Ever. In addition to defining the list, in the book we bring you some insightful background on each one. The story of each typeface can be just as interesting as how it looks, and very often the background and aesthetics are completely entwined. We love examining letterforms, but we think knowing a little more about your type gives it an even richer meaning in use.You can pick up the high-production value, lavish 180-page 100 best Typefaces Ever book at WH Smith or Barnes & Noble, at My Favourite Magazines or, if you prefer a digital version for iPad or iPhone, in the Computer Arts app on Apple Newsstand.Words: Garrick Webster and Rob Carney Stephen Hawking's internet service is scheduled to take place at Westminster Abbey, Broad Sanctuary, London, on Friday June 15 at 12 PM. Members of the public who wish to attend may apply here; there are 1,000 open spots and attendees will be randomly selected. But those who apply may notice an oddity. When asked for date of birth, the chart runs to 2038. This is not a typo.Stephen Hawking believed that time travel to the past was theoretically possible (you can read a lecture of his on the topic here, in language that's quite approachable, even for the layman). The author even went so far as to throw a party for time travelers in 2009 to see if any might arrive. (None did). There are a variety of theories on why this might be so, over and above the obvious "Time travel to the past isn't possible," including the idea that time travel to the past is possible, but that it cannot be used to travel to a point before time travel to the past was possible.In this theory, if time travel was somehow miraculously invented in 2020, you'd be able to use it to visit the past of 2020 in 2070 — but nothing could take you to a point before. Time travel to the future, in contrast, is known to be theoretically possible, provided you find a way to reach the relativistic speeds required. A better way to frame the problem is to say that we know, based on our current understanding of the laws of physics, that the laws of physics allow for travel to the future, while all theories of how one might travel to the past are much more vague.A spokesperson for the Stephen Hawking Foundation said, "We cannot exclude the possibility of time travel as it has not been disproven to our satisfaction. All things are possible until proven otherwise. But so far we have had applications from all round the world, and we do mean round — there are no flat-Earthers here."The chance of time travelers showing up at Hawking's funeral are low, and the chance of them revealing themselves, one might assume, are even lower. In virtually all science fiction, time travel is shown in just a handful of ways:One person/group is attempting to change the timeline, while another person/group acts to prevent this. (Terminator, Star Trek: First Contact)A person/group attempts to remove an object from the timeline without changing history. This basic plot can also be used to remove information that was known in the past, but lost in the future, without the difficulty of transporting whales at warp speed inside a Klingon Bird of Prey.(Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home)A person/group attempts to change the timeline to avert catastrophe. (X-Men: Days of Future Past)In most of these cases, characters avoid telling anyone they're time travelers to the maximum extent possible. But Hawking apparently didn't find this particularly persuasive, noting in the lecture above that "even if there were sound reasons for keeping us in ignorance, human nature being what it is, it is difficult to believe that someone wouldn't show off, and tell us poor enlightened peasants, the secret of time travel."My Own TheoryI've had a theory on this topic for years but never had a chance to share it. Let me say up front that I'm sharing this in jest, rather than as a serious scientific concept. In fact, my understanding is that most physicists don't believe time travel of the sort I'm going to describe is possible in the first place. But just for the fun of it, here it is.Study history long enough, and you'll discover there are some incredible coincidences in our timeline. Stanislav Petrov, the Soviet officer who disobeyed direct orders and his own training by refusing to report that the United States had launched nuclear missiles at the Soviet Union back in 1983, wasn't even supposed to be on duty that night. Petrov was in a combat-hardened soldier, but an engineer. He troubleshot computer hardware for a living. When his board lit up with signals that indicated an American launch, he cleared the error. And then, incredibly, he cleared it again when new launch signals appeared from multiple locations in North America. Petrov may have single-handedly prevented nuclear war. Soviet doctrine of the day taught that computers were infallible and were to be trusted in all circumstances; far from being rewarded, Petrov was reprimanded.Everyone knows that the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand kicked off World War I. Less well-known is the fact that the first two bomb-throwers refused to act and the third scored an indirect hit. Ferdinand survived. After completing a series of remarks the Town Hall of Sarajevo, Ferdinand decided to change his schedule and visit the wounded survivors of the earlier bomb attempt. The driver was to follow the Appel Quay to the Sarajevo Hospital, but was not informed of this. As a result, he turned off Appel Quay on to Franz Josef street, following the plan for Ferdinand's original visit, which took them past Schiller's delicatessen where Gavril Princip was waiting. Ferdinand's driver was notified of the direction change near the delicatessen and stopped the car to reverse it almost directly in front of Princip's position. Princip fired from five feet away. World War I was the result.And while the "evidence" for this last one is a bit weaker, I'm a longtime Titanic buff who can't resist tossing it in. Why did the Titanic sink? It hit an iceberg. But it might not have sunk in the first place, had seaman David Blair not walked off with the key to the storage locker where the lookout's binoculars were kept. (The relative impact of this is disputed, but Lookout Frederick Fleet, who first spotted the iceberg with the Mark I Eyeball, believed it would have made the difference). Alternately, the ship might've survived if First Officer Lightoller had hit the iceberg head-on rather than attempting to pass it. And, of course, the passengers might've been saved if the SS Californian hadn't ignored its emergency rockets. But the sinking of Titanic had an enormous impact on ship designs, lifeboat regulations, and popular culture. The sinking of Titanic didn't invent the phrase "women and children first," but it popularized and embedded it in public consciousness.The Titanic raises steam and heads into history. This is the last known photo of the vessel.And as a point of reference, don't even get me started on "The Wreck of the Titan: Or, Futility" an 1898 novella about a fictional luxurious ocean liner, the Titan, an 800-foot ocean liner (Titanic: 882 feet, 9 inches) with a maximum speed of 25 knots (Titanic: 22.5 knots), with a displacement of 45,000 tons (Titanic: 46,000 tons), designed as a triple-screw steamer without enough life boats, described as "unsinkable," and which sinks in the North Atlantic, in April, at night, after hitting an iceberg.The practical explanation for this, of course, is that the author of that novella had extensive knowledge of ships and seagoing. But as a fun thought exercise (again, not a serious theory), I like to imagine that these moments of sheer coincidence, in which events play out the way they did because of incredibly unusual coincidences, might be the only evidence of time travel left to us. For want of a nail, indeed.

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