

Time travelers invited to Stephen Hawking memorial

16th May, 2018



Time travelers have been invited to attend the memorial service for Professor Stephen Hawking. The legendary physicist, cosmologist and author died on March 14. Thousands of fans

and well-wishers lined the streets in Cambridge, England for his funeral two weeks later. His family has now arranged a special ceremony to allow people to remember and celebrate his life, and time travelers have been invited. Hawking famously wrote in his book "A Brief History of Time" that: "If time travel is possible, where are the tourists from the future?" Now they have the opportunity to travel back in time. The online entry form for the memorial allows people with birth dates up to December 31, 2038 to take part.

The concept of time travel had fascinated and intrigued Professor Hawking over the decades. In 2009, he staged a glitzy party for time travelers at Cambridge University. He arranged champagne and snacks, and a banner saying: "Welcome time travelers". No one from the future attended that particular event. A spokesman for the Stephen Hawking Foundation, which is organizing the memorial service, said he had yet to receive a response from any time travelers to attend the memorial service. The deadline to reserve a place at the June 15 event at London's Westminster Abbey is today. The spokesman said it was still possible. He said: "We cannot exclude the possibility of time travel as it has not been disproven to our satisfaction."

Sources: metro.co.uk / sciencealert.com / npr.org

Writing

It would be great if we could travel backwards and forwards in time. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

time / traveler / time travelers / cosmology / fans / funeral / ceremony / tourist / birth / concept / intrigued / decades / party / champagne / the future / deadline / possible

True / False

- a) Time travelers have been invited to Stephen Hawking's funeral. T / F
- b) Stephen Hawking's funeral was two weeks after his death. T / F
- c) Hawking once asked where the tourists from the future were. T / F
- d) People born in 2035 can attend Stephen Hawking's memorial service. T / F
- e) Stephen Hawking first got interested in time travel two years ago. T / F
- f) Hawking once arranged a champagne party for time travelers. T / F
- g) Three time travelers have replied to the memorial service organizers. T / F
- h) The memorial event will take place at St Paul's Cathedral in London. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1. attend | a. organized |
| 2. legendary | b. honor |
| 3. celebrate | c. rule out |
| 4. opportunity | d. notion |
| 5. entry | e. famous |
| 6. concept | f. time limit |
| 7. arranged | g. application |
| 8. event | h. go to |
| 9. deadline | i. function |
| 10. exclude | j. chance |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you know about the cosmos?
- c) What period in time would you like to go back or forward to?
- d) Would you prefer to travel back or forward in time?
- e) How can we prove or disprove time travel?
- f) What would time travelers from the future think of today's world?
- g) Do you think time travel will be possible one day?
- h) What questions would you like to ask a time traveler?

BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. invited to attend the memorial | a. lined the streets |
| 2. The legendary physicist, | b. receive a response |
| 3. Thousands of fans and well-wishers | c. celebrate his life |
| 4. remember and | d. intrigued Professor Hawking |
| 5. the opportunity to travel | e. of time travel |
| 6. time travel had fascinated and | f. cosmologist and author |
| 7. yet to | g. a place |
| 8. The deadline to reserve | h. disproven |
| 9. We cannot exclude the possibility | i. service |
| 10. it has not been | j. back in time |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about Stephen Hawking?
- What should happen at the memorial service?
- Would you like to be a time traveler?
- If you went back in time, what historical event would you change?
- How would you explain the history of time?
- What would you ask a tourist from the future?
- What would time travelers from the past think of today's world?
- What do you think of the concept of time travel?

Spelling

- travelers have been invited to ndtaet
- The glrneyeda physicist
- cooslomtisg and author
- for his anferul
- remember and raeebltec his life
- the yptrnuootpi to travel back in time
- The potncce of time travel
- fascinated and triuigned Professor Hawking
- he staged a tzilgy party
- The eiddaenl to reserve a place
- We cannot cdxeleu the possibility
- it has not been ioenpvrsd

Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. e	3. b	4. j	5. g
6. d	7. a	8. i	9. f	10. c

Role Play

Role A – 3000BC

You think 3000BC is the best year to travel to. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their years. Also, tell the others which is the least appealing of these years (and why): the year zero, 2025 or 3018.

Role B – The Year Zero

You think the year zero is the best year to travel to. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their years. Also, tell the others which is the least appealing of these years (and why): 3000BC, 2025 or 3018.

Role C – 2025

You think 2025 is the best year to travel to. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their years. Also, tell the others which is the least appealing of these years (and why): the year zero, 3000BC or 3018.

Role D – 3018

You think 3018 is the best year to travel to. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their years. Also, tell the others which is the least appealing of these years (and why): the year zero, 2025 or 3000BC.

Speaking – Best Year

Rank these with your partner. Put the best year to time travel to at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------|------------|
| • 1776 | • 3000 BC |
| • 1066 | • 100 |
| • 2025 | • 25000 BC |
| • 2118 | • 3000 |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.