

Physics Timeline

Name	Discovery	Date of discovery	Key events in history
Copernicus	Heliocentric universe	1540s	1509 Henry XIII becomes King of England 1588 Spanish Armada
Galileo	First work on the laws of motion	1589 - 1610	1603 King James I becomes King of England and Scotland 1605 Gunpowder Plot
Newton	Publication of the laws of motion	1687	1665 The Black Death 1666 Great Fire of London
Dalton	Atomic theory	1800s	
Faraday	Electromagnetism	1820s	1832 Great Reform Act – landowners get the vote 1838 Dickens publishes <i>Oliver Twist</i> 1838 Slavery abolished in the British Empire
Roentgen	Discovery of X-rays	1890s	1880 Compulsory Education for Children Act 1899-1902 2nd Boer War
Mme Curie	Ionising radiation	1900s	1901 Queen Victoria dies, Edward VII becomes King
Einstein	Relativity	1905 - 1915	1914-18 World War One 1916 Battle of the Somme 1918 Women over 30 get the vote
Rutherford	Discovery of the atomic nucleus	1911	
Hubble	The expansion of the universe	1920s	1924 Ramsey McDonald first Labour Prime Minister 1927 BBC created
Chadwick	Discovery of the neutron	1932	1945 Atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima
Penzias & Wilson	Discovery of the cosmic microwave background	1964	1961 Berlin Wall erected 1963 Beatles release their first album

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Bell Burnell & Hewish	First pulsar discovered	1967	1968 Martin Luther King assassinated 1969 Apollo 11 Moon landing 1973 Britain joins the EC
Mather & Smoot	Temperature variations in the cosmic microwave background	1992	1991 USA invades Iraq
Wolszczan & Frail	First exoplanet discovered	1992	
Perlmutter, Schmidt & Riess	Discovery that the rate at which the universe expands is accelerating	1998	1997 Tony Blair, first Labour Prime Minister in 18 years 2003 Iraq war
Jenkins & Twicken	First Earth-like exoplanet in a star's habitable zone	2015	
Weiss, Thorne & Barish	First direct observation of gravitational waves	2016	
Falcke, Doeleman & Bouman	First direct image of a black hole	2019	