SEE ALSO

Number of alien worlds quantified

05 Feb 09 | Science & Environment

Can our TV signals be picked up on other

The BBC is not responsible for the content of external

Cameron and Clegg: We are united

UK passenger 'was on crash plane'

Football fan extradited over riot

MOST POPULAR STORIES NOW

SHARED READ WATCHED/LISTENED

Black hole 'hurled out of galaxy' 2 Cameron and Clegg: We are united

3 Libya air crash 'kills over 100'

'Top hat' dome at oil spill site 5 Girl, eight, 'raped by boys, 10'

7 Last Ziegfeld Folly dies aged 106

8 N Korea 'nuclear fusion success'

10 Obama backs Afghan Taliban effort

9 In pictures: Libya crash

Most popular now, in detail

UK passenger 'was on crash plane'

Odds on finding aliens 'too low'

17 Apr 08 | Norfolk

06 Aug 08 | Magazine

Discovery Channel

internet sites

TOP UK STORIES

News feeds

RELATED INTERNET LINKS

Professor Stephen Hawking

ADVERTISEMENT

## NEWS

## Watch ONE-MINUTE WORLD NEWS

**News Front Page** 

Africa Americas

Asia-Pacific

Europe

Middle East

South Asia

UK England Northern Ireland Scotland

Wales **UK Politics** Education

Magazine

Business Health

Science & Environment

Technology

Entertainment Also in the news

Video and Audio

ADVERTISEMENT

**Programmes** 

Have Your Say In Pictures

Country Profiles

Special Reports

Related BBC sites Weather On This Day Editors' Blog **BBC World Service** 

E-mail this to a friend Printable version

Page last updated at 09:35 GMT, Sunday, 25 April 2010 10:35 UK

## Stephen Hawking warns over making contact with aliens

Aliens almost certainly exist but humans should avoid making contact, Professor Stephen Hawking has warned.

In a series for the Discovery Channel the renowned astrophysicist said it was "perfectly rational" to assume intelligent life exists elsewhere.

But he warned that aliens might simply raid Earth for resources, then move on.



Mr Hawking says it is 'perfectly rational' to believe in aliens

"If aliens visit us, the outcome would be much as when Columbus landed in America, which didn't turn out well for the Native Americans," he said.

Prof Hawking thinks that, rather than actively trying to communicate with extra-terrestrials, humans should do everything possible to avoid

He explained: "We only have to look at ourselves to see how intelligent life might develop into something we wouldn't want to meet."

In the past, probes have been sent into space with engravings of human beings on board and diagrams showing the location of our planet.

The real challenge is to work out what aliens might actually be like 99 Stephen Hawking

Radio beams have been fired into space in the hope of reaching alien

Prof Hawking said: "To my mathematical brain, the numbers alone make thinking about aliens perfectly rational.

"The real challenge is to work out what aliens might actually be like."

The programme envisages numerous alien species including twolegged herbivores and yellow, lizard-like predators.

But Prof Hawking conceded most life elsewhere in the universe is likely to consist of simple microbes.

In the recent BBC series Wonders of the Solar System, Professor Brian Cox, a physicist from the University of Manchester, also suggested life may exist elsewhere

He said organisms could be present under the ice sheet that envelops Europa, one of Jupiter's moons.

within our solar system.

HAVE YOUR SAY

I believe that it is inevitable that different forms of life exist within our universe

> Rogerjohn Send us your comments

Professor Cox added: "Closer to home, the evidence that life could exist on Mars is growing.

"We will only know for sure when the next generation of spacecraft, fine-tuned to search for life, are launched to the moons of Jupiter and the arid plains of Mars in the coming decades."

Bookmark with: What are these? 📲 Delicious 🕍 Digg 🥳 reddit 🜃 Facebook 📵 Stumble Upon E-mail this to a friend Printable version PRINT SPONSOR

FEATURES, VIEWS, ANALYSIS



New approach How UK foreign policy will shape under its coalition



Banning the bomb Could the Middle East become nuclear-free?



In pictures Images from the scene of the Tripoli plane crash

MOST POPULAR NOW | Traffic to this site is currently 11% above normal

♠ SKIP TO TOP

PRODUCTS & SERVICES



E-mail news



Mobiles





Advertisement









About the BBC Contact Us Terms of Use



The BBC is not responsible for the content of external internet sites.

**News Sources** About BBC News

**BBC Help** Accessibility Help Privacy & Cookies

Advertise With Us