

# Robert Hooke Encyclopedia Article

## Robert Hooke

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# Robert Hooke

**1635-1703**

English physicist with broad scientific interests and accomplishments, who is best known for his discovery of the law that governs the behavior of elastic materials, known as Hooke's law in his honor. He also coined the word *cell* for biological systems, discovered the diffraction of light, proposed a wave theory of light, invented a telegraph system, made significant astronomical observations of Jupiter and Mars, and is regarded as the founder of the science of crystallography.