

History of computers scavenger hunt

1) What is a computer? Why is Stonehenge considered a "computer"?

A computer is an electronic machine that processes data according to the instructions and provides us with new information while it can process large amounts of things but it doesn't think at all. Stonehenge is considered a computer because it is the first largest computer that is used like a calendar by placing rocks in the sun, storing information of the time and date of the earth.

2) What is an abacus? Where was it invented and when? How do you use it?

An abacus is a calculator that uses beads to slide back and forth. Used between 1000BC and 500BC.

3) Who invented the Pascaline calculator? When?

French philosopher and mathematician Blaise Pascal invented the Pascaline calculator during 1642.

4) Who was Babbage and how did he use a Punched Card to store data?

Babbage is a person who began to work on the Difference Engine. The punched cards were where you enter information and it processes by following a set of instructions.

5) Who was the first programmer?

Ada Augusta King.

6) What are 2 discoveries of Leibniz? What did he invent?

The two discoveries of Leibniz were the binary number system and Calculus. He invented a tool that adds, subtracts, multiplies, and divides.

7) Who started IBM? What does IBM stand for? What was its original name?

Herman Hollerith started the IBM and IBM stands for International Business Machines. The original name was Calculating-Tabulating-Recording.

8) When did the Mark I computer come about? How big was it?

Mark I came about 1930. It was 52ft long, weighed 50 tons, and had 750,000 parts to it.

9) Who was Grace Hopper? What was the "first" Computer bug?

Grace Hopper is a commissioned officer. The first computer bug is the moth.

10) What does ENIAC stand for? When was it invented? How big was it? Why was it useful?

The Electronic Numerical Integrator and calculator, invented in 1946. It was 1800 square feet. It was useful because it could solve a problem in 20 seconds where a team of mathematicians took 3 days to solve.

11) What was the "Transistor"? Why was it so much better than a vacuum tube?

The Transistor made the ability for computers to be faster and smaller. It was better than a vacuum tube because it was faster.

12) What do the following stand for: FORTRAN COBOL

Formula translator common business oriented language.

13) What was the next major advance after the transistor?

The integrated circuits.

14) What is the microprocessor? How much data could the first ones handle at a time?

It is an entire CPU that has a chip that can store up to 256 bytes.

15) What was the Altair? How did you program it?

It is the first micro computer made and programmed by flipping switches.

16) How did Microsoft start? Who were its founders? What did they make?

It started from IBM, borrowed from Microsoft.

17) Who started Apple? What were important advantages of their computers?

Steve Jobs started the apple. The advantages were that they were easier to use.

18) Where did the World Wide Web start? Why was it started?

It started in Zurich, Switzerland because it was used for browsing.

19) What lies in the future for computers?

It would be faster and more reliable.