

MAKING COMPUTERS

How big were the first computers? What is binary?
Find out more about the science of computers.

Do You Know? is a series of levelled non-fiction books featuring video content, project work and critical-thinking activities to motivate and engage young learners. Covering a range of STEM topics from nocturnal animals to climate change, *Do You Know?* takes an enquiry-based approach, developing children's language, communication and investigation skills.

Level 1 Pre-A1 • 400 headwords

Level 2 A1 • 600 headwords

Level 3 A1+ • 800 headwords

Level 4 A2 • 1100 headwords

Lexile measure 510L • Word count 694

Cambridge Primary Science curriculum link:
Science in Context



www.ladybirdeducation.co.uk

Available online:



DO YOU KNOW?



MAKING COMPUTERS

DO YOU KNOW?

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2

Ladybird

Level 2

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New words



calculator



difficult



machine



maths



electronic



expensive



monitor
(noun)



recycle



information



instruction



scientist



square

What is a computer?

There are computers inside washing machines. They start and stop the washing machines.

washing machine



A computer is a clever machine. It helps us to do different things.

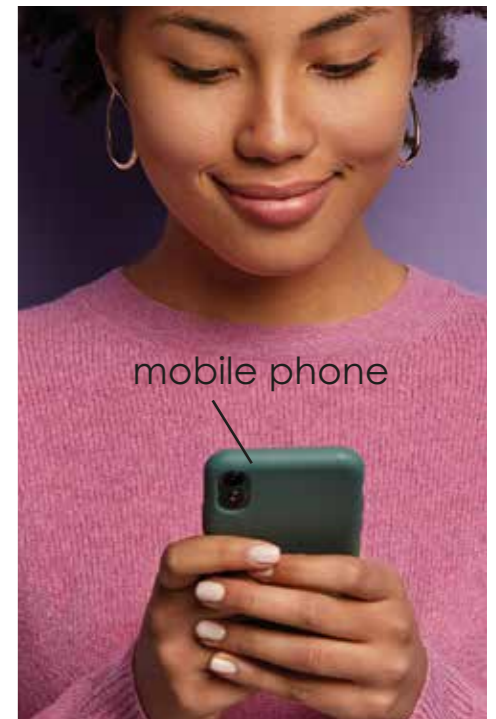
traffic light



A computer can change a traffic light from red to orange, and then to green.

The computer in your mobile phone does lots of things!

mobile phone



 **THINK!**

Think about which things in your home have computers inside them.

What were the first computers?

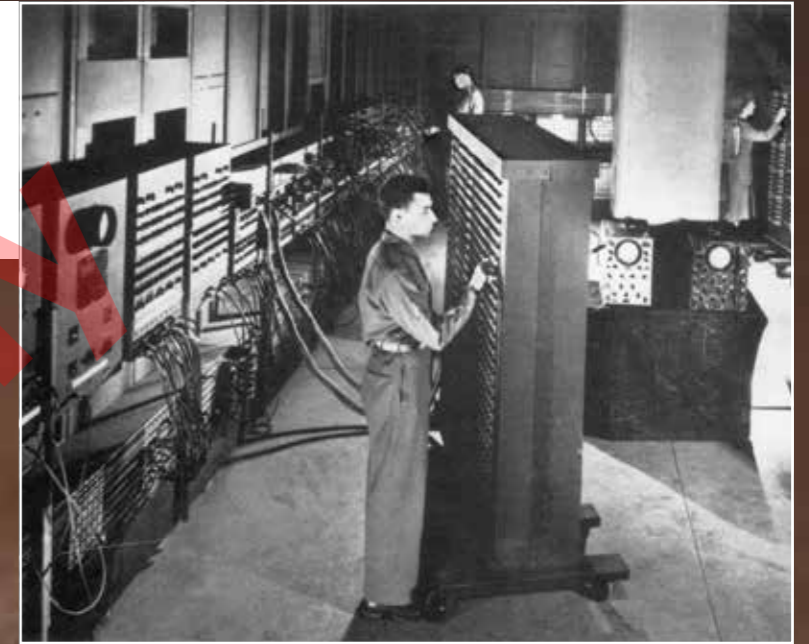
The first computers were **calculators**. They helped people to do **maths**.

Some people think the first calculator in the world was the abacus.

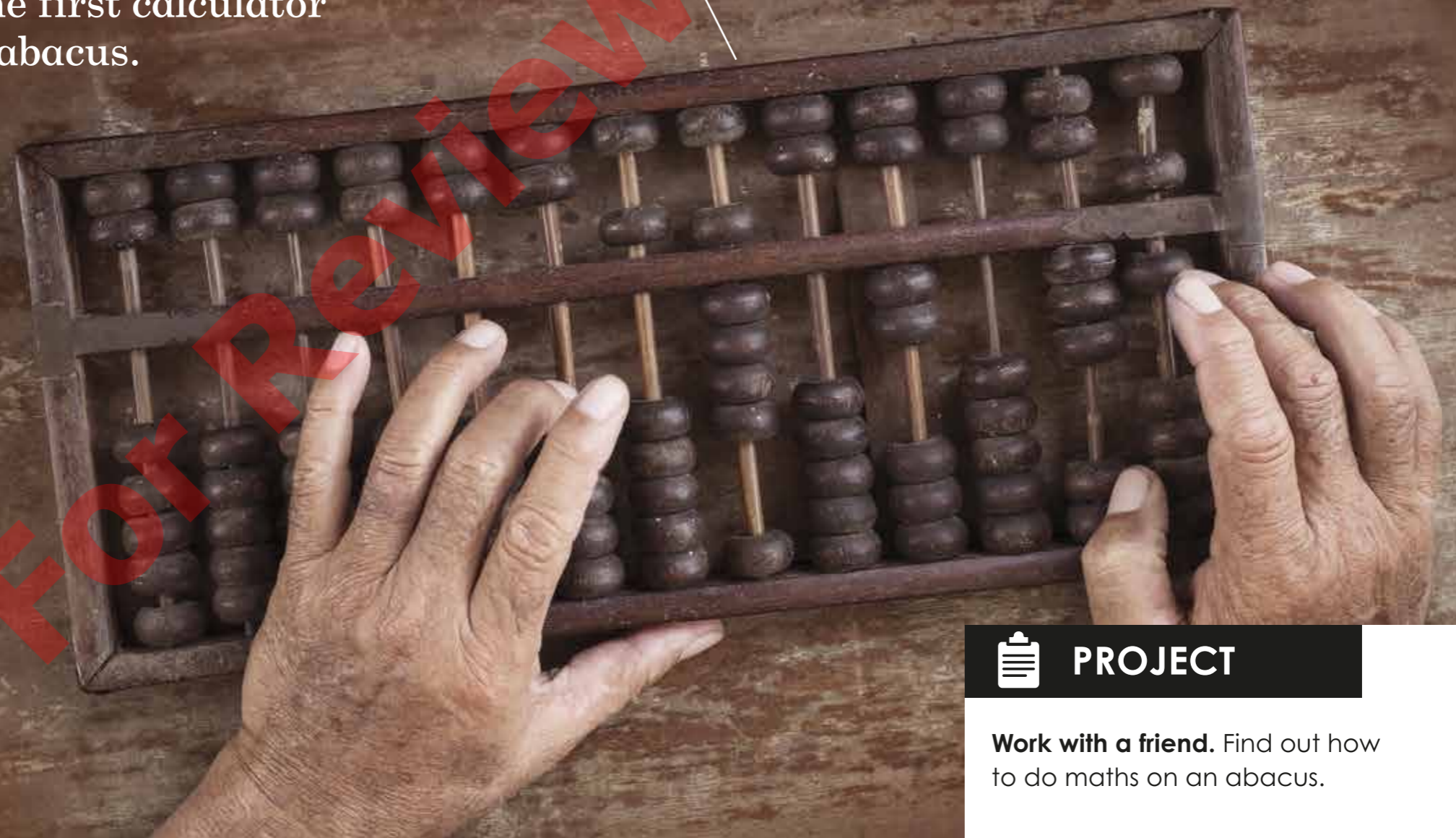


This computer is very old. **Scientists** think it shows days, months and years.

This is the first **electronic** computer in 1946. It was a very big computer!



abacus



PROJECT

Work with a friend. Find out how to do maths on an abacus.

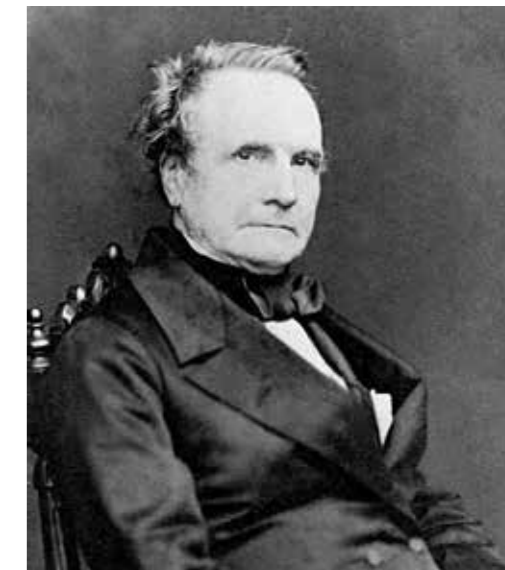
Who were Charles Babbage and Ada Lovelace?

Charles Babbage was an English scientist in the 1800s. He wanted to answer **difficult** maths questions with a machine.

His famous machine was the Analytical Engine.



But Charles Babbage did not make the Analytical Engine. It was very **expensive**.



Charles Babbage worked with Ada Lovelace. She wrote the **instructions** for the Analytical Engine.



 **FIND OUT!**

Use **books or the internet** to find out the names of other machines Charles Babbage wanted to make.