



INVENTIONS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

THE PERSONAL COMPUTER





TABLE OF CONTENTS

HOMEWORK HELPER 4

ROOM-SIZED TO DESK-SIZED 8

POWERING UP 12

THE DIGITAL AGE 20

A NEW WAY 26

PERSONAL COMPUTER TIMELINE..... 28

GLOSSARY 30

TO LEARN MORE 31

INDEX..... 32

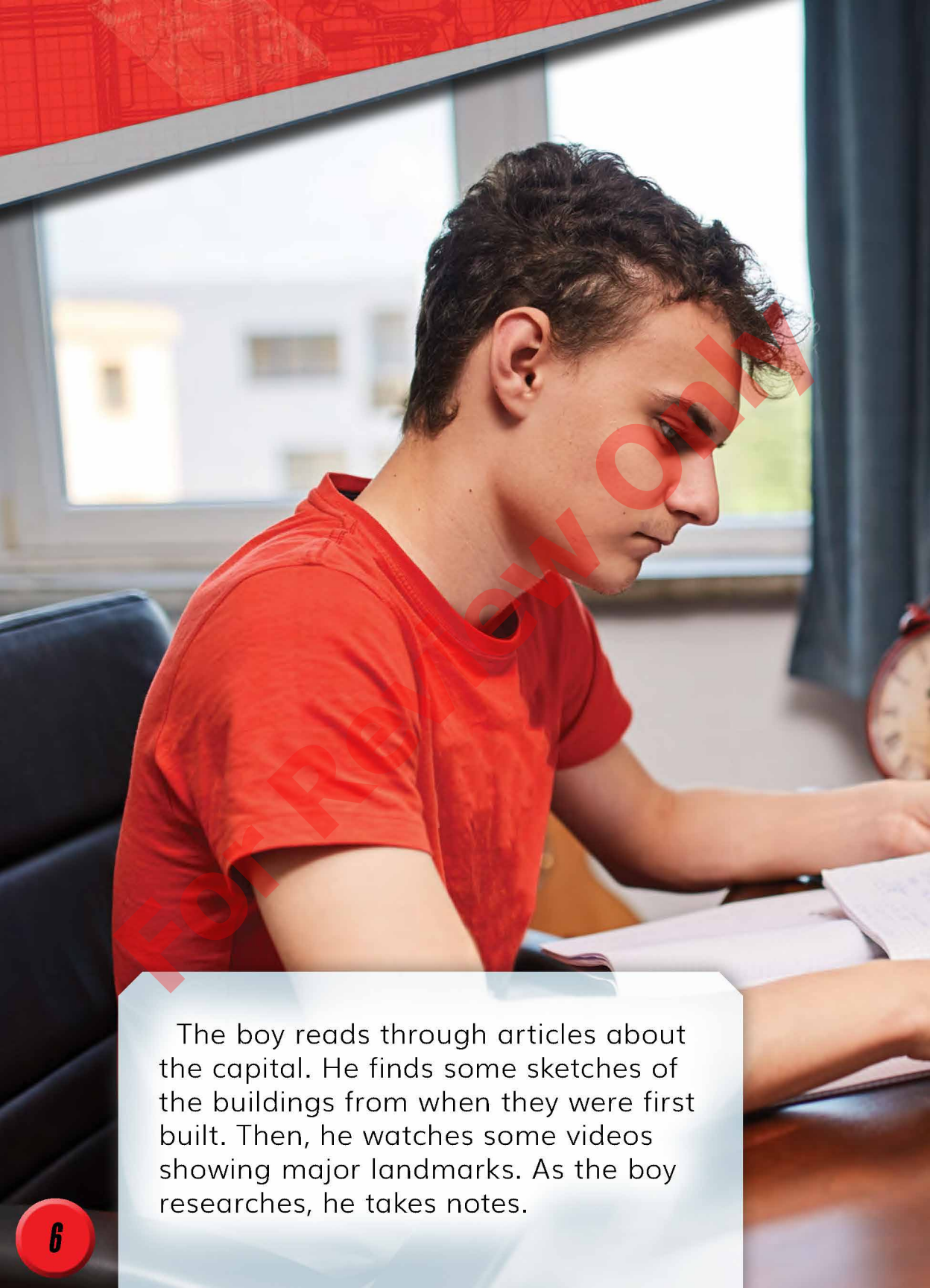
HOMEWORK HELPER

A student gets home from school. He sits down at the computer. Then, he presses the machine's power button and waits for the computer to boot up. He has a report to write about the nation's capital.





When the computer turns on, the boy opens a music program. With a click, a soft tune starts to play. Next, the boy pulls up a blank document and opens a web **browser**. He is ready to begin researching.



The boy reads through articles about the capital. He finds some sketches of the buildings from when they were first built. Then, he watches some videos showing major landmarks. As the boy researches, he takes notes.

The boy's parents call him to dinner. He stretches and yawns as he rises from the computer. He will come back to start writing later. With the personal computer, all he needs to write his report is right in front of him!



ROOM-SIZED TO DESK-SIZED

The earliest computing devices date back centuries. Simple devices such as the **abacus** were designed to do math problems. The first **mechanical** computers were designed in the 1800s. Among the first was Charles Babbage's Analytical Engine. Though it was not built in his lifetime, its design influenced all future computers.

abacus



DID YOU KNOW?

ENIAC was a giant machine. It was made up of 18,000 vacuum tubes and 6,000 switches. It weighed 60,000 pounds (27,216 kilograms)!

ENIAC

The first modern electric computer came in 1946. Like other early computers, ENIAC was programmed only to do specific calculations.

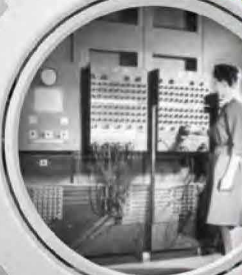
Vacuum tubes made up ENIAC's **central processing unit** (CPU).

The tubes made the computer so big that it took up an entire room!

PERSONAL COMPUTER TIMELINE

1946

ENIAC becomes the first modern electric computer



1971

Intel builds its first microprocessor



1969

ARPAnet, which later becomes the Internet, is created



1974

The Altair 8800 computer kit becomes available

1981

Microsoft's PC-DOS operating system is introduced in the IBM 5150

1983

Apple's Lisa uses a graphical user interface and a mouse

2007

Apple introduces its first smartphone, the iPhone

1977

The Apple II, TRS-80, and Commodore PET personal computers go on the market

1991

The World Wide Web is released to the public

2019-

Future developments