History Mysteries – Answers

Picture 2 page name: analyticalengine.html

- What is it? Analytical engine
- When was it first described? 1837
- Who invented it? Charles Babbage
- Why is it important? It was the first computing machine designed to do general tasks (not just calculate).

Picture 3 page name: countess.html

- Who is she? Countess Ada Lovelace (or Augusta Ada King)
- When did she live? 1815-1852
- She the 1st person to do an important computer-related activity. What was it? The first programmer.

Picture 4 page name: codebreakers.html

- What is it? Colossus computer
- When was it invented? 1943–1945
- What was it used for? Solved ("cracked" or "broke") the enemy's secret battle codes in World War II
- The women in the picture are programming the computer. How did they do that? (There's no keyboard!) The moved wires on the outside of the computer.

Picture 5 page name: ic.html

- What is it? Integrated circuit, a miniature computer you can hold in your hand.
- When did inventors make it possible to produce them in large quantities, so the public could use them? 1958
- Why is it important? Computers could be much smaller and cheaper. Eventually, people could have computers in their homes.

Turn over \rightarrow

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Picture 6 page name: hopper.html

- What got discovered on this page? The first computer bug a real moth!
- When was it discovered? 1945
- Who discovered it? Grace Hopper
- What else did she do? Pioneered programming languages that worked on many different kinds of computers instead of just one computer.

Picture 7 page name: xerox.html

- What is the name of this computer? Alto
- When was it invented? 1973
- Why is it important? First computer with a graphical user interface (GUI) and a mouse.

Picture 8 page name: zx81.html

- Where is the computer in this picture? Black box with the keyboard
- What is its name? Sinclair ZX81
- Why is it connected to an audio cassette (which normally played music tapes)? Its programs were stored on the audio cassette tapes. Also, the ZX81 saved its documents on the tapes.