

Computer History Activity

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Grades: 6-8

Goal: *Learn about some key events in Computer History*

Duration of lesson: 40 minutes to 1 hour.

Objectives:

Be curious about computer history and appreciate the computers they use everyday.

Lesson

Introduction

Today, we can not imagine our world without computers.

Do you know that early computers did not look like the computers of today.

In fact some of the first computers were people! *Human computers!* ([link to picture here](#)) The history of computers is fascinating. This is your chance to learn more.

Activity

Your class will be creating a 'history of computers' web page/Scratch project/video that we can share with the world.

To make this web page, you and your partner will do research and write about one important event or person in computer history.

You will soon find out 'What was the world's first video game?', 'Who is world's first computer programmer?' , 'Who designed the first Apple computer?' and much more....

Check your assignment (it will be from one of the following topics). - list can be modified and extended. Create cards and let students pick one.

1. Human computers
2. Abacus

3. Ada Lovelace
4. Babbage
5. Hollerith's Punched Card
6. ENIAC
7. Grace Hopper
8. Colossus
9. Woz
10. Pong
11. The Altair 8800
12. Fairchild Semiconductor
13. Douglas Engelbart
14. World Wide Web
15. IBM's Watson

More details on the activity

In the shared Google Document/ in your own note book write down

1. Your topic
2. The approximate date if you can find it for your topic, i.e when did it happen
3. 2-3 lines describing your research topic in your notebook.
4. Why is your topic important - what problem did it solve or what did this person do that no one had ever done before.

It is important to write this in your own words, so other students will be able to understand it. Do not just copy out the information.

Check the following web sites

www.computerhistory.org

<http://www.computinghistory.org.uk/cgi/computing-timeline.pl>

<http://www.computersciencelab.com/ComputerHistory/History.htm>

You can do a Find (Command-F) and look for the topic within a page.

You can also do a Google search and look at a Wikipedia site for some of the topics.

Closure

Have students share what they have learned - at end of class/in the next class/ via the webpage/video/Scratch project