M1 Ch01 Beyond the Book: History of Computing

List 1 - 3 factoids:
1. The abacus has been dated back to the 1100 BCE and was one of the first aids in counting.
2. One of the very first digital computers, the ENIAC (Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer) "contained 17,468 vacuum tubes, 7,200 crystal diodes, 1,500 relays, 70,000 resistors, 10,000 capacitors and around 5 million hand-soldered joints. It weighed 30 short tons (27 t), was roughly 8.5 feet by 3 feet by 80 feet (2.6 m by 0.9 m by 26 m), took up 680 square feet (63 m²), and consumed 150 kW of power." What a monster! This is a credit to the man's engineering creativity writ large - kind of like the *Great Pyramid* of computing.
3. The first Apple computer was small enough to fit on a dining room table. I was in a Gifted and Talented program when the Apple IIE was in its first educational implementation. I remember being able to write very simple programs - I think in DOS - on it as a child.

List 2 - 3 historical individuals:
1. Blaise Pascal was a brilliant philosopher and mathematician. He is well known for the Arithmetic machine and Pascal's Wager.
2. Charles Babbage proposed the Difference Engine that could perform multiple calculations in the 1830s - possibly the first complex computing machine that included data storage. However, it never came to fruition.
3. John von Neumann is my Tony Stark of mathematics and computing. Among all of his amazing achievements he created the architecture for the general purpose electronic computer.