# Representation in Technology

In this lesson, students learn about the impacts of having a diverse team for the creation of computer science games.

## Objective

Students will be able to:

* Identify different types of biases present within the tech industry.
* Quantify the benefits of establishing diversity within the tech industry.
* Do your part in establishing equality in technology.

## Underrepresented Groups in Computer Science

Women and many minority groups are currently severely underrepresented in computer science, however it was not always this way. In the 1960s women actually made up a majority of computer science jobs.

In the 1970s, only about 14% of computer science bachelor degrees went to women, which started the decline of women in computer science. By 1984, women only made up 37% of the computer science jobs and in recent years this number has declined further to 18%.

Similarly, Blacks and Hispanics are underrepresented in the field of computer science, making up only 18% and 12% of bachelor degrees in recent years.

### What Drives This Difference

For this exercise, take some time to write several well constructed sentences speculating why you think this gap may exist.

Think about how you may use a computer and how computers are marketed to consumers. What role does that potential play?

Sources:<https://www.computerscience.org/resources/women-in-computer-science/>

<https://www.dukechronicle.com/article/2020/06/major-madness-racial-and-gender-equity-in-computer-science>

1. What factors may cause the underrepresentation of women and minorities in computer science?

## Impact of Women In Tech

Take time to watch this [video](https://video.link/w/CiD5c) as to why women in tech are important. Similar arguments can be made for minorities.

As you watch the video consider the following questions:

1. According to the video, what are two benefits of a more diverse leadership team?
2. The video states that men and women think differently. By including a more diverse team, how can those different opinions help a company?
3. Why is it important to include diverse teams in product development? How do you think a diverse team helped influence the product development at Amazon?

Alternative Video Link: <https://video.link/w/CiD5c>

## Impact on Game Design

Designing a more inclusive game is something that anyone can do, not just women and minorities. Take some time to read through this article that profiles 4 women who used their background to help make the gaming industry more inclusive.

As you read through, think about the following two questions:

1. What did these women do to make gaming more inclusive?
2. As you get ready to build out your gaming project, what types of things can you do to make the game more inclusive?

\*Source: Fennessy, Christine. “Gamers Like Us.” Red Bull Gives You Wings - RedBull.com, 9 Sept. 2020, [www.redbull.com/us-en/theredbulletin/gamers-like-us.](http://www.redbull.com/us-en/theredbulletin/gamers-like-us.) \*