This is a presentation about Alan Mathison Turing.

Alan Mathison Turing was a remarkable British hero who helped create the modern world, now known as the father of computer science, and his inventions contributed greatly to the [groundwork](https://dict.hjenglish.com/w/groundwork" \t "http://www.hjenglish.com/englishwriting/p404070/_blank) for the modern computer.

Born on June 23rd, 1912, in Maida Vale, Turing grew up in Hastings. He displayed great individuality from a young age. At 14, he went to Sherborne School in Dorset. On discovering that there would be a general strike on his first day, he took it upon himself to cycle the 60 or so miles to school on his own.

Turing [subsequently](https://dict.hjenglish.com/w/subsequently" \t "http://www.hjenglish.com/englishwriting/p404070/_blank) read mathematics at Cambridge, later assisting in the development of the innovative Manchester computers.

On 4 September 1939 the day after Britain declared war on Germany, Turing reported to Bletchley Park, the wartime station of the Government Code and Cypher School and forerunner of GCHQ. At Bletchley, Turing led a team whose [ingenuity](https://dict.hjenglish.com/w/ingenuity" \t "http://www.hjenglish.com/englishwriting/p404070/_blank) and intellect were turned to the task of breaking German [ciphers](https://dict.hjenglish.com/w/cipher" \t "http://www.hjenglish.com/englishwriting/p404070/_blank). One of Turing’s main contributions [whilst](https://dict.hjenglish.com/w/whilst" \t "http://www.hjenglish.com/englishwriting/p404070/_blank) there was to invent the Bombe, an [electromechanical](https://dict.hjenglish.com/w/electromechanical" \t "http://www.hjenglish.com/englishwriting/p404070/_blank) machine used to find the daily settings of the Enigma machine. A fully functional rebuild of the Bombe can be found today at Bletchley Park, along with the excellent Turing exhibition.

Turing was an absolutely vital part of the British war effort and one of the most important people of the 20th century. It is without question that his efforts helped shorten the war significantly, saving the lives of millions of people.

And yet, he was treated badly. A [burglary](https://dict.hjenglish.com/w/burglary" \t "http://www.hjenglish.com/englishwriting/p404070/_blank) at his home led Turing to admit to police that he was a practicing [homosexual](https://dict.hjenglish.com/w/homosexual" \t "http://www.hjenglish.com/englishwriting/p404070/_blank), at a time when it was illegal in Britain. This led to his arrest and [conviction](https://dict.hjenglish.com/w/conviction" \t "http://www.hjenglish.com/englishwriting/p404070/_blank) in 1952 for “ gross indecency ”. Turing was subsequently forced to choose between imprisonment and chemical castration. He chose chemical castration. As a result of his conviction he lost security clearance and was not allowed to continue his work.

On 8 June 1954, Turing was found dead and an [inquest](https://dict.hjenglish.com/w/inquest" \t "http://www.hjenglish.com/englishwriting/p404070/_blank) revealed he had poisoned himself with [cyanide](https://dict.hjenglish.com/w/cyanide" \t "http://www.hjenglish.com/englishwriting/p404070/_blank), but it has been noted that the known evidence is also consistent with accidental poisoning. In 2009, following an [Internet campaign](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_activism" \o "Internet activism), British Prime Minister [Gordon Brown](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gordon_Brown" \o "Gordon Brown) made an [official public apology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alan_Turing" \l "Government_apology_and_pardon_support) on behalf of the British government for “ the appalling way he was treated ”. [Queen Elizabeth II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elizabeth_II" \o "Elizabeth II) granted him a posthumous pardon in 2013. The [Alan Turing law](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alan_Turing_law" \o "Alan Turing law) is now an informal term for a 2017 law in the United Kingdom that retroactively pardons men cautioned or convicted under historical legislation that outlawed homosexual acts.

The US-based Association of Computing Machinery has given The Turing Award annually since 1966. It is the computing world’s highest honor for technical contribution to the computing community and considered equivalent to the Nobel prize.