

Ada Lovelace

THE FIRST COMPUTER PROGRAMMER

Ada Lovelace was born in London in 1815. Her father was the famous poet Lord Byron and her mother was Lady Byron.

Ada's mother brought her up and insisted she learnt maths and science. At that time, these subjects were usually just for boys.

She spent time with many great scientists and mathematicians. One of these was Charles Babbage. He was the inventor of the first basic computer, which could do tricky calculations with numbers.

Lovelace was asked to translate a French article about Babbage's work. However, she went a step further and added her own notes to it. She said that his machine could work with letters, symbols and even music and pictures too.

This idea was so new and revolutionary that it took more than 100 years before it was recognised as the first computer algorithm. Since then, Lovelace has been known as the first computer programmer.



1. Who was Ada Lovelace's father?
2. What subjects were important to Lovelace's mother?
3. The text says that Lovelace was asked to "translate a French article". What does "translate" mean here?
 - a. copy word for word
 - b. change from one language to another
 - c. check for mistakes
4. What did Lovelace realise that Babbage's machine could do?
5. In your own words, explain why Ada Lovelace is a STEM Hero.