

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. What did Babbage invent and what could it do?
2. Explain what “revolutionary” means in this text.
3. Why do you think Lovelace added her own notes instead of just translating the article?
4. How do we know Lovelace's ideas were ahead of her time? Justify your answer with evidence from the text.
5. In a short paragraph, explain why Ada Lovelace deserves to be considered a STEM Hero.