

Alan Turing

Alan Turing was an English scientist, mathematician and codebreaker. He is best known for his important role in cracking codes during the Second World War.

Early Life

Alan was born on 23rd June 1912 in London. His dad was called Julius and his mum was called Ethel. Julius and Ethel spent lots of time travelling to India because Julius worked there. As they wanted their children to be raised in Britain, they decided that Alan and his older brother, John, would not travel with them. Instead, the boys would stay with friends of the family.



Alan's Childhood



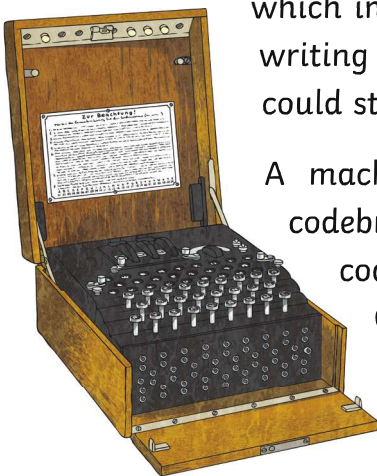
As a child, Alan enjoyed puzzles and challenges. One day, Alan tracked the path of flying bees so that he could find their hive and get honey for his family.

Alan's teachers knew that he was very clever for his age. At the age of 13, Alan joined Sherborne School in the town of Dorset. While he was at Sherborne School, Alan was able to solve problems that were far harder than those that most children his age could understand.

Working as a Codebreaker

Alan was 27 years old when the Second World War started. He had been working at Bletchley Park as part of the Government Code and Cypher School.

During the war, the German army thought that changing their messages into code would stop their enemies from reading them. They used a smart system which involved replacing one letter with another lots of times. By writing down the changes that had been made, German soldiers could still work out the original message.



A machine called the Enigma had been invented by Polish codebreakers during the First World War. Alan and a team of codebreakers tried to use the Enigma machine to break the German code. Within weeks of starting work at Bletchley Park, Alan had created a new machine called 'the bombe'. Alan's machine was far better at cracking codes than the Enigma machine had been. His new machine played a huge part in ending the Second World War.

For his services during the war, Alan was given a special award by King George VI in 1946.

Did You Know...?

A person who cracks codes is called a cryptanalyst.



**“Those who can
imagine anything, can
create the impossible.”
– Alan Turing**

Questions

- Whose messages was Alan aiming to decode? Tick one.
 - the Indian army's
 - the German army's
 - the British army's
 - his parents'

- In which year did Alan receive an award from King George VI? Tick one.
 - 1912
 - 1923
 - 1936
 - 1946

- What was the name of the machine invented by Polish codebreakers? Tick one.
 - cypher
 - Bletchley Park
 - the Enigma
 - the bombe

- Draw four lines and complete each sentence.

Alan's dad...
Alan's parents...
Alan and John...
Alan's mum...

did not travel with their parents.
was called Ethel.
was called Julius.
wanted their children to be raised in Britain.

- Look at the section called **Alan's Childhood**.
Find and copy one word from the text which means the same as **followed**.

6. Look at the section called **Did You Know...?**

Which word can be used to mean a person who cracks codes?

7. Summarise the impact that Alan Turing had on the Second World War.

8. Explain why Alan Turing is inspirational to people today.
