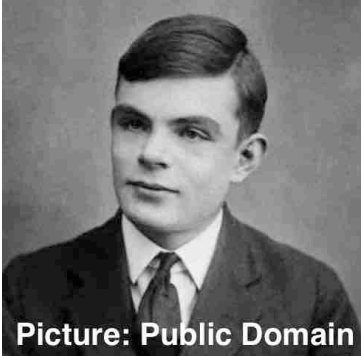


Father of modern computing to appear on banknote

22nd July, 2019



Picture: Public Domain

Alan Turing, the man widely recognised as being the father of modern computer science, has been honored by being selected to appear on a United Kingdom banknote. Mr Turing was chosen ahead of a wealth of notable British historical figures

and luminaries to be the face of the new £50 note. Turing was instrumental in helping Britain and its allies win World War II. He led a team of codebreakers to crack the Enigma code the Nazis used to send messages to warships and military commanders. He invented the now famous British Bombe to do this. This was a giant computer, which ushered in the birth of modern computing and the beginnings of artificial intelligence.

Alan Turing was a mathematical genius who also excelled in the sciences. He was born in London in 1912. He graduated from Cambridge University and then outlined his vision for creating an algorithm-based computing machine. He said of his invention: "This is only a foretaste of what is to come, and only the shadow of what is going to be." His idea is central to the computers we use today. His brilliance led to his being asked to join the WWII code-breaking team. Despite his pivotal role in ending that war, he was persecuted in the post-war years for being homosexual. Being gay was illegal in the UK until 1967. He chose to be chemically castrated rather than go to prison. Turing died in 1954, aged 41, in an apparent suicide.

Sources: theguardian.com / telegraph.co.uk / bbc.com

Writing

The computer is the greatest invention in the past 200 years. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

computing / science / banknote / historical figures / World War II / code / artificial / intelligence / genius / the sciences / algorithm / brilliance / pivotal / role / homosexual

True / False

- a) The article said Alan Turing isn't widely recognized in computing. T / F
- b) Alan Turing will appear on a new £100 note. T / F
- c) Turing helped crack a World War II code called Commando. T / F
- d) Alan Turing helped bring about the emergence of artificial intelligence. T / F
- e) Turing excelled in maths and the sciences. T / F
- f) Alan Turing graduated from Cambridge University in 1912. T / F
- g) Alan Turing played a pivotal role in ending WWII early. T / F
- h) It is believed Mr Turing took his own life. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. recognised | a. plan |
| 2. wealth | b. harassed |
| 3. figures | c. emergence |
| 4. commanders | d. supposed |
| 5. birth | e. acknowledged |
| 6. vision | f. abundance |
| 7. brilliance | g. opted |
| 8. persecuted | h. leaders |
| 9. chose | i. genius |
| 10. apparent | j. people |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about Alan Turing?
- b) What do you know about the people on your banknotes?
- c) How did the beginnings of computing begin?
- d) Who do you think are the biggest historical figures?
- e) How do you think Alan Turing helped in World War II?
- f) What will computers be like in 50 years from now?
- g) How useful is it to study computer science?
- h) What do you know about artificial intelligence?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. a wealth of notable British | a. artificial intelligence |
| 2. Turing was instrumental | b. an apparent suicide |
| 3. send messages to warships | c. mathematical genius |
| 4. ushered in the birth | d. based computing machine |
| 5. the beginnings of | e. and military commanders |
| 6. Alan Turing was a | f. historical figures |
| 7. creating an algorithm- | g. role in ending that war |
| 8. This is only a foretaste | h. of modern computing |
| 9. his pivotal | i. of what is to come |
| 10. Turing died in 1954, aged 41, in | j. in helping Britain |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What would you like to be a genius at?
- How good were you at sciences?
- How has Alan Turing changed the world?
- What is an algorithm?
- What three adjectives best describe this story?
- How sad was the end of Alan Turing's life?
- What questions would you like to ask an Alan Turing biographer?

Spelling

- widely secgenorid as being the father
- a wealth of notable British olsthiicar figures
- Turing was tlamtiernusn in helping Britain
- amryitli commanders
- rsedehu in the birth of modern computing
- the beginnings of ticiraaifl intelligence
- a mathematical neuigs
- an ihgmotrla-based computing machine
- His eiblalnrnc led to his being asked
- Despite his ilvpato role in ending that war
- he was rtseeucdpe in the post-war years
- in an pnarptae suicide

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. f	3. j	4. h	5. c
6. a	7. i	8. b	9. g	10. d

Role Play

Role A – Physics

You think physics is the most important science. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their sciences. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): computing, neuroscience or astronomy.

Role B – Computing

You think computing is the most important science. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their sciences. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): physics, neuroscience or astronomy.

Role C – Neuroscience

You think neuroscience is the most important science. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their sciences. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): computing, physics or astronomy.

Role D – Astronomy

You think astronomy is the most important science. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their sciences. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): computing, neuroscience or physics.

Speaking – The Sciences

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| • physics | • chemistry |
| • computing | • biology |
| • astronomy | • geology |
| • maths | • neuroscience |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.