

Reading Task Wednesday 13th May 2020

Alan Turing



Alan Turing was a scientist, a mathematician and a codebreaker. A scientist is someone who knows a lot about science. A mathematician is someone who is very good at maths. Alan was so clever that he could use science and maths to work out how to crack codes.

What Was Alan's Family Like?

Alan was born on 23rd June 1912 in London. His dad was called Julius and his mum was called Ethel. Alan's parents spent a lot of time travelling between England and India because Alan's dad worked there. This meant that Alan and his older brother, John, spent a lot of time staying with friends of their family.

What Was Alan like as a Child?

Alan was a very clever child who liked to solve puzzles and take on 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 said that he was very smart for his age. When Alan was 13, he joined Sherborne School in the town of Dorset. While he was there, Alan was able to understand problems and ideas that were much too tricky for most children.

What Did Alan Do during the Second World War?

Alan started to work at Bletchley Park when he was 27 years old. Bletchley Park was a large house where lots of codebreakers worked during the Second World War.

During the war, the German army would send lots of messages to each other that were written in code. They did this by replacing one letter with another letter lots of times. It was Alan's job to work out what the messages really said.



At first, Alan was using a codebreaking machine called the Enigma. However, Alan quickly made a new machine that was much better. Alan's new machine played a big part in ending the Second World War.

Alan was given a special award for his hard work by King George VI in 1946.

Questions

1. In which year was Alan Turing born? Tick one.

- 1912
 1923
 1936
 1946

2. Whose flight path did Alan track as a child? Tick one.

- birds
 bees
 flies
 planes

3. Number these events from 1 to 4 to show the order in which they happened in Alan's life.

	He invented a new machine.
	He joined Sherbourne School.
	He was given a special award.
	He started to work at Bletchley Park.

4. Draw four lines and complete each sentence.

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

stayed with family and friends.
worked at Bletchley Park.
worked in India.
spent a lot of time travelling.

5. How old was Alan when he started to work at Bletchley Park?
