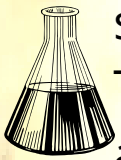
"I needed a computer, and I needed a computer very, very badly."

Name: John
Surname: Atanasoff
Born on: October 4, 1903 **Until:** June 15, 1995
Place of birth: Hamilton, New York
Country of living: USA
Known for: inventor of the Atanasoff Berry Computer (ABC), a serial, binary, electromechanical, digital, special-purpose computer with regenerative memory.

Short Biography

Education: BSEE, University of Florida, 1925; MS, Iowa State College (now University), 1926; PhD, physics, University of Wisconsin, 1930.
Professional Experience: graduate professor at Iowa State College (now University), 1930-1942; US Naval Ordnance Laboratory, 1942-1952; founder, Ordnance Engineering Corp., 1952-1956; vice-president, Atlantic Dir., Aerojet General Corp., 1950-1961.

STEAM connection:



In 1936 he invented an analog calculator for analyzing surface **geometry**.
The key ideas employed in the ABC included binary **math** and Boolean logic to solve up to 29 simultaneous *linear equations.*
Technology - Computer invention

Anecdote.

In 1970 John Atanasov was invited to Bulgaria by the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and was awarded the Order of Cyril and Methodius - first degree. This is his first award and a sign of public recognition.

JOHN VINCENT ATANASOFF

Timeline:

Describe five of the most important events that influenced your character's extraordinary story. Or what five events in your character's life were the turning points in the outstanding STEAM career.

Partly due to the drudgery of using the mechanical Monroe calculator, which was the best tool available to him while he was writing his doctoral thesis, Atanasoff began to search for faster methods of computation

In 1936 he invented an analog calculator for analyzing surface geometry. The fine mechanical tolerance required for good accuracy pushed him to consider digital solutions.

He would use electricity and electronics for the media of the computer, which would give it speed. He would use base-2, or the binary number system, which would simplify its computational process.

He would use regenerative memory, which would reduce the cost of building the machine. He would compute with direct logical action rather than enumeration, which would give it increased accuracy.

In 1990, President George H. W. Bush awarded Atanasoff the United States National Medal of Technology, the highest U.S. honor conferred for achievements related to technological progress.