

GCSE Bitesize Computer Science

Suw Charman Anderson on Ada Lovelace - transcript

My name is Suw Charman Anderson and I'm the founder of Ada Lovelace Day, which is an international celebration of women in science, technology, engineering and maths. Ada Lovelace was born in December 1815 and she grew up to be really quite a brilliant young woman. She was the first person to understand what the analytical engine could achieve. Charles Babbage was mainly interested in creating a calculating machine that could create large tables of numbers without any mistakes in them at all. Ada saw that a computer could actually do a lot more than just do sums. She saw that it could actually create patterns and graphics and maybe even music if it was programmed properly. Her leap of imagination was incredibly important 100 years later during the Second World War because Alan Turing, who was working at Bletchley Park on breaking the Germans' Enigma codes, found a publication of Ada's where she describes how she thought the analytical engine would work - and that was hugely influential in his thinking about how the computers that he was working on could do more than just add up.