

Links for staff pre-teach

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/history-ks2-codebreaking-in-world-war-two/zdq2jhv> Overview of codebreaking
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zZuqLLdx2YQ> (The Imitation Game – **for staff information only**)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j2jRs4EAvWM> The Imitation Game

VE DAY 2025 Codebreaking

- The success of military operations during the Second World War was largely down to a huge team of men and women who were CODE BREAKERS.
- This meant they listened to enemy messages which were written in secret (or code), quickly solved what they meant and then passed this on to army commanders.
- **They would then use this information to prepare or move troops to win battles.**

VE DAY 2025 – Lesson X - Codebreaking

- For example, the enemy may have sent a message which when read would look like this:
- **Xg Xs GxIZ Gr Mggmfp !**
- **Which is complete nonsense unless you know the code, which then means it would look like this:**
 - **It is time to attack !**

What is a coded message and how do you 'crack' a code?

So a coded message refers to a written message that you are unable to read without knowing the rule, password or 'key'.

It is used so that the message can only be read by the person (or people) who you want to see the message. Coded messages have been used by the Ancient Egyptians, the Romans, Mary Queen of Scots and many others throughout history!

Here is an example of the code Julius Caesar used when he was invading countries and expanding the Roman Empire! Every letter was changed to the third letter after itself in the alphabet. A would become D, T would become W, C would become F and so on... Can you code this message the way Caesar would have?

[illegible]

What is a coded message and how do you 'crack' a code?

Messages sent during the war were far more difficult to crack.

The German military had a machine called the enigma machine which had one hundred and three billion, trillion possible settings for sending a message.

It was for this reason it was called, 'The Unbreakable Machine'

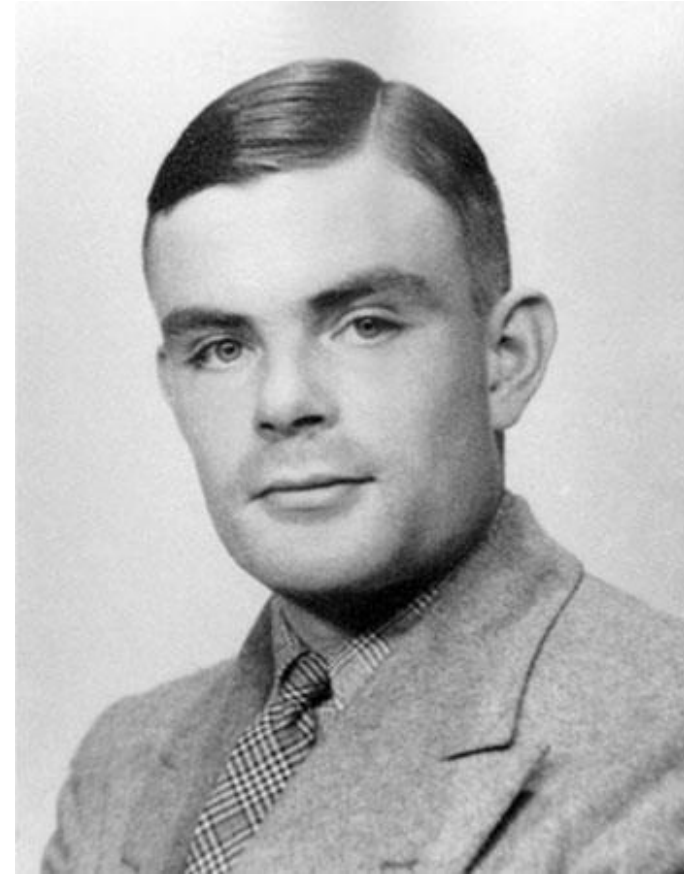


But it was eventually 'broken' (the code was cracked) was a team of incredibly brave and clever men and women. These were led by...

Are you feeling like a codebreaker yet?

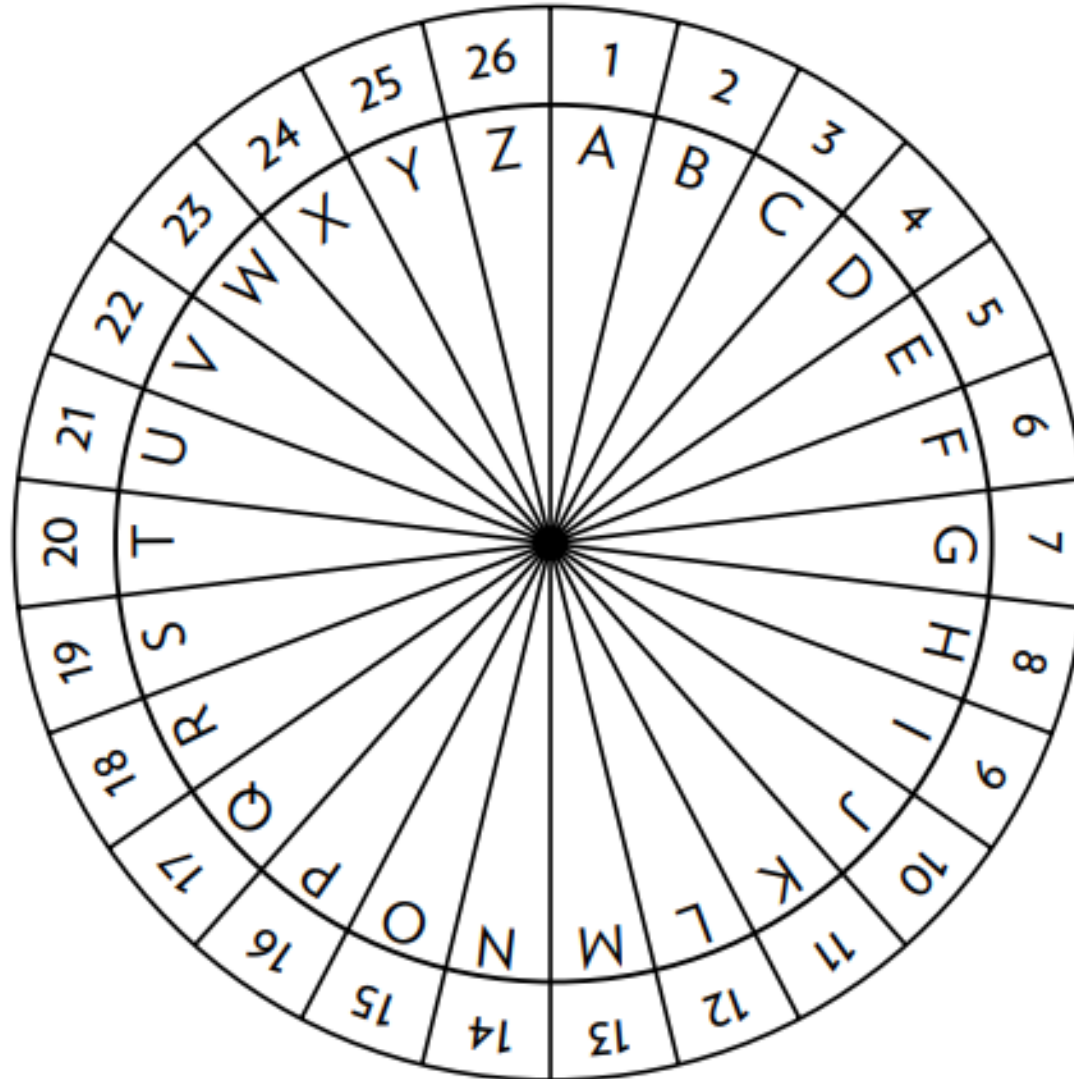
Alan Turing

- Known as the 'Father of Modern Computing'
- He published a scientific paper where he described a 'Universal Machine' that could follow instructions to complete any task. These are now what we call **COMPUTERS**.
- Alan Turing was a key individual in 'breaking' the German enigma machine. His work saved the lives of millions of people across the world.
- Alan Turing was not recognised during his lifetime but he is now known all over the world and has also had his face on the £50 note.



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VE Day 2025 Codebreaker Challenge Y1-Y4



VE Day 2025 Codebreaker Challenge Y5/6

