

## Computer History

Name \_\_\_\_\_

*Directions* – Write the answers to the following questions directly on this sheet. Follow the timeline given at the following web site - <http://www.pbs.org/nerds/timeline/>

1. Where was the abacus invented? When?
2. What tool was used for registering and predicting the motion of the stars and planets?
3. John Napier invented logs. What do logs do?
4. When was the first mechanical calculator built?
5. What was the first automatic loom controlled by?
6. What was the Analytical Engine and who was it made by?
7. How does the analytical engine relate to the loom in question number 5?
8. Was the first person to outline the fundamentals of computer programming, including data analysis, looping and memory addressing male or female? What was his or her name?
9. What was finally completed in 1941?

10. What was ENIAC built for?

11. What did Dummer propose in 1952?

12. What was the standard institutional mainframe computer by 1964?

13. What was the purpose of Sketchpad in 1962?

14. How much did a typical minicomputer cost in the 60's?

15. What 3 applications that we use all of the time today was first presented in 1968?

16. What did Bill Gates and Paul Allen's program Traf-O-Data analyze?

17. What is known as the first "personal" computer?

18. When was the first spreadsheet program developed?

19. Microsoft's first version of Windows came out in what year?

## Computer History

## KEY

*Directions* – Write the answers to the following questions directly on this sheet. Follow the timeline given at the following web site - <http://www.pbs.org/nerds/timeline/>

1. Where was the abacus invented? When?

**Babylonia [now Iraq] – 4th Century BC**

2. What tool was used for registering and predicting the motion of the stars and planets?

**Antikythera Mechanism**

3. John Napier invented logs. What do logs do?

**Logs allow multiplication and division to be reduced to addition and subtraction.**

4. When was the first mechanical calculator built?

**1623**

5. What was the first automatic loom controlled by?

**punch cards**

6. What was the Analytical Engine and who was it made by?

**A mechanical computer that would solve any math problem – Charles Babbage**

7. How does the analytical engine relate to the loom in question number 5?

**uses punch cards**

8. Was the first person to outline the fundamentals of computer programming, including data analysis, looping and memory addressing male or female? What was his or her name?

**Female - Augusta Ada Byron**

9. What was finally completed in 1941?

**first general use programmable calculator**

10. What was ENIAC built for?

**to assist in the preparation of firing tables for artillery**

11. What did Dummer propose in 1952?

**that electronic equipment be manufactured as a solid block with no connecting wires**

12. What was the standard institutional mainframe computer by 1964?

**IBM 360**

13. What was the purpose of Sketchpad in 1962?

**allows you to make engineering drawings with a light pen**

14. How much did a typical minicomputer cost in the 60's?

**\$20,000**

15. What 3 applications that we use all of the time today was first presented in 1968?

**word processor, collaborative application & an early hypertext system.**

16. What did Bill Gates and Paul Allen's program Traf-O-Data analyze?

**traffic**

17. What is known as the first "personal" computer?

**Altair 8800**

18. When was the first spreadsheet program developed?

**1979**

19. Microsoft's first version of Windows came out in what year?

**1984**