



## The Antikythera mechanism

The geared mechanism was retrieved in 1900 from a Roman shipwreck, off the coast of Antikythera island.

It is of Greek origin and it is estimated that it was constructed around the end of the second century BC.

### How it worked

The user of the mechanism could rotate a crank to set a date.

The device would calculate and display, through dials and indicators, the position and phase of the moon and the position of known planets, and predict solar eclipses.



### Task Think, write, pair, share

Would you call the Antikythera mechanism a computer?

How is the mechanism similar or different to modern computers?

#### Similarities

#### Differences

To help you answer these questions, you can also ask yourself the following questions:

- Why would such a mechanism be created? What sort of problem does it solve?
- Why were computers created? How do we use them? What sort of problems do they solve?