History of computers

Key facts



Background noise	A (secondary) sound that is there but your focus is not fully on it as you are focussed on another (primary) sound.		
Byte	A byte is made up of 8 bits. One bit contains a single binary value - 0 or 1.		
Computer	Electronic machines that accept and process information to produce an output, and then store the results.		
CPU	Central Processing Units are the brains of a computer and deal with all of the data it receives from input and output devices, as well as programs ran within the computer.		
Memory storage	A portable, compact form of digital storage, used to transfer files from one device to another, or keep safe.		
Mouse	A handheld hardware input device that can move and select text, icons, files, and folders on your computer.		
Operating system OS	The base software needed on a computer for it to manage basic commands, hardware and software and provide a user-friendly interface.		
Radio play	Scripts and written text for broadcasting on-air.		
RAM	Random Access Memory. A piece of hardware that allows data to be recalled or stored within a computer.		
ROM	Read Only Memory. Information stored within ROM can only be read and not edited.		
Sound effects	Sounds to enhance an event or bring fantasy aspects to life in a film or other media, for example, the whoosh of a time machine.		
Touch screen	Allows the user to use their finger or multiple-finger gestures to control the device via the screen.		
Trackpad	An input device commonly found built into laptops. It is used to move the cursor with the touch of your finger, and some allow for multiple finger gestures.		

Memory sizes:	Bytes:	Invented:	Abbreviation:
l kilobyte	1,000	1950	(kb)
l megabyte	1,000,000	1956	(mb)
l gigabyte	1,000,000,000	1986	(gb)
l terabyte	1,000,000,000,000	2007	(tb)





Bletchley Park worked closely with the 'Y Service' of British wireless intercept stations. The operators here would tune-in to enemy radio messages, in an attempt to gain snippets of information, to send back to Bletchley Park for deciphering.



Bletchley Park would have to stitch together the snippets received from the 'Y Service' to decrypt the complete message.