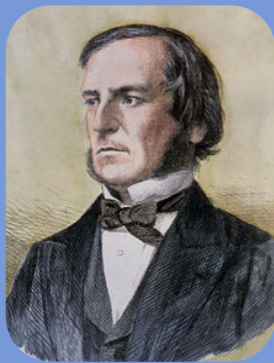


Important Figures in Computing History

George Boole



George Boole (1815 – 1864)

Who was George Boole?

- He was an English mathematician
- He believed that human thought could be written down as 'rules'
- His ideas led to boolean logic which is used by computers today

Important Figures in Computing History

Why is George Boole Important?

- He invented a set of rules for thinking that are used by computers today
- The rules were that some statements can only ever be 'true' or 'false'



- His idea was first used in computers as switches either being 'on' or 'off'
- Today this logic is used in almost every device and almost every line of computer code



His early years

- Born 2nd November 1815
- His father was a struggling shoemaker
- George had had very little education and taught himself maths, French, German and Latin

Important Figures in Computing History

What came next?

- George taught himself Greek and published a translation of a Greek poem in 1828 at the age of 14!
- Aged 16, the family business collapsed and George began working as a teacher to support the family
- At 19 he started his own school



- In 1840 he began having his books about mathematics published
 - In 1844, he was given the first gold medal for Mathematics by the Royal Society
 - Despite never having been to University himself, in 1849 he became professor of Mathematics at Queens College Cork in Ireland
 - He married Mary Everett in 1855
 - They had four daughters between 1956-1864
- He died at the age of 49, on the 8th December 1864



Important Figures in Computing History

Boolean and Logic

- Boole did not think of logic as part of mathematics
- He thought that logic could be expressed using mathematical symbols - algebra
- One hundred years later his boolean algebra would be used for the electrical circuits inside the first computers
- Boole's algebra has transformed the world we live in
- The technology we use every day depends on the logic Boole invented
- For this reason, Boole is one of the founding fathers of computer science



Computer Circuit

Important Figures in Computing History



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