

Coding Basics 2

Role Model Bios Pt. 2



Grace Hopper

Bio: Grace Hopper was a computer programming pioneer and United States Navy rear admiral. She had the idea to develop a programming language based on English. That led to the development of COBOL, an early programming language still used today. In 2016, she was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Quote: “People have an enormous tendency to resist change. They love to say, ‘We’ve always done it this way.’ I try to fight that.”

Traits: Innovator, Risk-taker

Born: December 9, 1906 in New York City, USA

Died: January 1, 1992 at age 85

Eye Color: Blue

Education: Vassar College and Yale University

Hedy Lamarr

Bio: Hedy Lamarr was a famous film actress and inventor that helped to lay the groundwork for the Bluetooth and Wi-Fi technology we still use today! Although she was never formally trained, Hedy was always interested in science and inventing. During World War II, Hedy learned that the navy was using radio-controlled torpedoes that could easily be taken off course. So, she worked with her friend, George Antheil, to design and patent a device that would stop the radio signal from being jammed and guide the torpedo to its destination. In 1962, the Navy adopted a version of their design for their ships. Hedy also starred in films in Czechoslovakia and Hollywood from the 1930s and 1950s. In 2014, Hedy and George were posthumously inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame for their work that helped to establish modern Bluetooth and Wi-Fi.

Quote: “Improving things comes naturally to me.”

Traits: Creative, go-getter

Born: November 9, 1914 in Vienna, Austria

Died: January 19, 2000 at age 85

Eye Color: Green

Education: Self taught



**Ada Lovelace**

Bio: Augusta Ada King, Countess of Lovelace was a teenager with a talent for math. That led to her work with British mathematician Charles Babbage, who is known as “the father of computers.” Babbage had come up with the idea of a mechanical computer called the Analytical Engine. Ada was the first person to realize that the machine could more than make calculations. She published the first algorithm intended to be carried out by such a machine in 1843 — which is why she’s often called the first computer programmer.

Quote: “The more I study, the more insatiable do I feel my genius for it to be.”

Traits: Curiosity, Imagination

Born: December 10, 1815 in London, England

Died: November 27, 1852 at age 36

Eye Color: Blue

Education: Privately Tutored (including by Mary Somerville)

Raye Montague

Bio: Raye Montague was a naval engineer who created the first computer program to design ships. She was inspired to become an engineer after seeing a submarine. She wanted to go to college for engineering at a time before the school admitted African-American students and graduated with a degree in business in 1956. She joined the Navy that same year, first as a clerk and worked her way to become a systems analyst and program director. Around 1970, she was assigned a project by her boss: create a computer program to design warships. Before she created this program, it took about two years to design a ship. Her program made it possible to design a ship in less than 24 hours. Her program revolutionized ship design for the Navy and became central to ship and submarine design. She received the Navy’s Meritorious Civilian Service award in 1972 in honor of her work and worked for the Navy for 33 years.

Quote: “I graduated from AM&N on a Tuesday and went to Washington, D.C, on Wednesday to take my resume to the U.S. Navy. Arkansas did not have any computers at the time, and I knew that I wanted to work on one.”

Traits: Innovator, boundary-breaker

Born: January 21, 1935 in Little Rock, Arkansas

Died: October 10, 2018 at age 83

Eye Color: Brown

Education: Arkansas Agricultural, Mechanical & Normal College (now the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff)



Margaret Hamilton

Bio: Margaret H. Hamilton played a key role in NASA's efforts to land humans on the moon. She led development of software that controlled the flight dynamics of the Apollo spacecraft, which were used to land on the moon six times in the 1960s and 1970s. She was honored with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2016.

Quote: "Looking back, we were the luckiest people in the world. There was no choice but to be pioneers; no time to be beginners."

Traits: Go-getter, Innovator

Born: August 17, 1936 in Paoli, Indiana

Eye Color: Blue-Gray

Education: Earlham College and University of Michigan

Katherine Johnson

Bio: You may know about Katherine Coleman Goble Johnson from the book and movie Hidden Figures. She's a mathematician whose calculations of orbital mechanics were critical to the success of the first and subsequent U.S. manned space flights. During her 35-year career, she was known for mastering complex manual calculations and helping pioneer the use of computers to perform tasks. Her calculations were essential to projects spanning from the beginnings of the first manned flights to the start of the Space Shuttle program and planning for a mission to Mars. She was honored with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2015.

Quote: "You should always be interested in something."

Traits: Perseverance, boundary-breaker

Born: August 26, 1918 in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia.

Eye Color: Blue

Education: West Virginia State College

Limor Fried

Bio: Limor Fried is an electrical engineer and founder of Adafruit Industries, a company that offers DIY electronics and kits. She started Adafruit out of her MIT dorm room. She was the first female engineer on the cover of WIRED magazine and was recently named Entrepreneur magazine's Entrepreneur of the Year.

Quote: "It's emotionally fulfilling for humans to create things."

Traits: Creative, risk-taker

Born: 1979

Eye Color: Blue-Green

Education: MIT

Maddy Maxey

Bio: Madison Maxey is passionate about materials and creative technology. She focuses on creating flexible, robust circuitry (e-textiles). Her computational design work uses code and computer programs to make striking visual patterns that can be printed onto textiles.

Quote: "Ignite your curiosity, learn voraciously, and experiment with making things."

Traits: Innovator, Curiosity

Born: 1993

Eye Color: Brown

Education: Self-Taught