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Charles Babbage, who lived from 1791 to 1871, was born in Great Britain. He was an inventor who designed a calculating engine to execute mathematical processes in the hopes of mimicking a human's intellectual capabilities. His goal was similar to those earlier innovators who created automatons to perform some of the physical movements of an individual, however, the "difference machine" was far superior to any of the previous inventions. Babbage's device was one of the earliest attempts at artificial intelligence, and while he was unable to see his plan through to the end, due to financial constraints, his design was the forerunner for the first successful computer created in 1946 (Schultz p. 27). These ideas revealed a passion of the scientific community to study and understand the mind and the way it functioned. Eventually, the field of psychology was developed with the exploration of cognitive functions and behavior as its primary focus.

A contemporary of Babbage was Ada Lovelace. She was born in 1815 in England and died in 1852. She was an avid supporter of Babbage as one of the few who truly grasped how his machine could successfully function. As a mathematical genius, she also did experiments and even envisioned a flying gadget sketching possible designs. Lovelace later penned an explanation of the inner workings of Babbage's calculating apparatus, heralding its great potentiality as well its significance in furthering the study of philosophy. However, she was careful to highlight the limitations of such a machine in its capacity to think as mortals do. Of its own accord, the appliance could never originate or devise anything new like the human mind can.