

Alan Turing Research Activity

In your group you are going to carry out some research into the treatment of Alan Turing and how attitudes towards him have changed over time. The **Research Questions** will check your understanding of the information, whilst **the Cultural Context Questions** will help you understand how changing attitudes are influenced by changing cultural ideas.



Activity Instructions

- Working as a group, read each information card carefully and use them to answer the research questions on this worksheet. Two of the cards are double-sided.
- Use the images and quotations to support your understanding.
- You should divide the questions between you in your group.
- As you carry out this research, discuss how Turing's story reflects the social and legal attitudes toward LGBTQ+ individuals from the 1950s to the present day.

Research Questions

1. Why did the police focus on Turing's relationship instead of investigating the burglary?
2. What was chemical castration, and how did it affect Turing?



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1. Why was homosexuality illegal in Britain when Alan Turing was arrested in 1952? How did the cultural attitudes of the time shape his trial and punishment? *(Hint: Think about how LGBTQ+ people were viewed in society, the laws that criminalized same-sex relationships, why chemical castration was considered an appropriate punishment.)*
2. What does the government's apology and royal pardon tell us about how attitudes toward LGBTQ+ rights have changed in Britain since the 1950s? *(Hint: Consider how LGBTQ+ people are treated today compared to the time of Turing's arrest. Why do you think the government decided to formally apologize decades later?)*
3. If Alan Turing had lived today, how do you think his achievements and identity as a gay man would have been recognised differently? *(Hint: Think about laws, social attitudes, and the ways in which famous LGBTQ+ people are celebrated today. How might Turing's legacy have been shaped in a more accepting society?)*

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