

In 1890, Herman Hollerith, an American businessman, inventor, and statistician, designed and built a *tabulating machine*. This electromechanical machine was a **precursor** of the modern computer, as it could automatically read, **tally**, and sort data stored on punched cards. Hollerith's concept of the punched card tabulating machine **held sway** in the field for many years to come and marked the beginning of the **era** of mechanized binary code and semiautomatic data processing.

► **Activity 1: Answer the following questions:**

1. Which machine bears the name of its creator?
2. Which inventor is regarded as 'the father of modern machine data processing'?
3. Which machine could perform only two arithmetic operations?
4. Which machine was the first to use special pieces of stiff perforated paper?
5. Which machine has the architecture of a modern computer?
6. Why is the Leibniz wheel regarded as 'the first true four-function calculator'?

► **Activity 2: Write the timeline of the history of computers in note form:**

17th century (circa 1642)	e.g., invention of 'Pascaline'
1671	
1804	
1823	
1837	
1890	



► **Activity 3: Use the highlighted words/phrases in the text to fill in the gaps in the following sentences. Use the words in their correct form:**

1. Artificial Intelligence (AI) machines are _____ performing human-like functions.
2. State-of-the-art computers _____ very little _____ to their earlier predecessors that used _____ in order to store information or perform calculations.
3. The Computing-Tabulating-Recording Company, which was founded in 1911, is the _____ to IBM, the multinational technology corporation.
4. The term _____ refers to a method of recording data in groups of five.
5. It is true that we live in the _____ of rapid technological advancement; however, it is _____ that we protect our cultural heritage and moral values.
6. In the late 19th century, these ideas _____ over academic circles in the USA.
7. Grace Hopper, the American computer scientist who in 1953 developed COBOL, the first computer language, was later _____ the "First Lady of Software".
8. Computers use special _____ algorithms whose task is to organize the data in a particular order allowing for information to be found more easily.
9. These early calculating devices are called electro-mechanical computers because they had a number of mechanical _____.

