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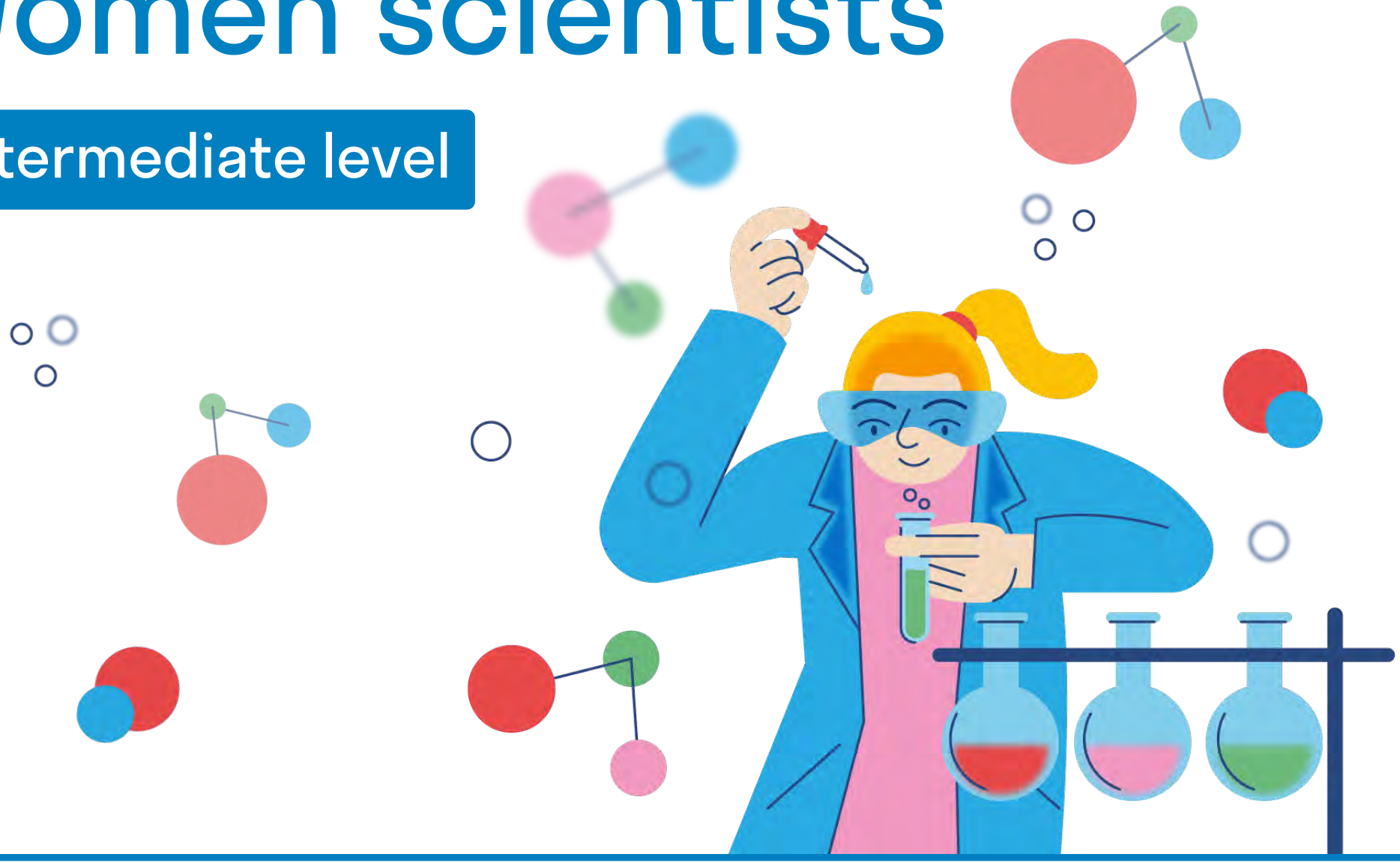
Women scientists

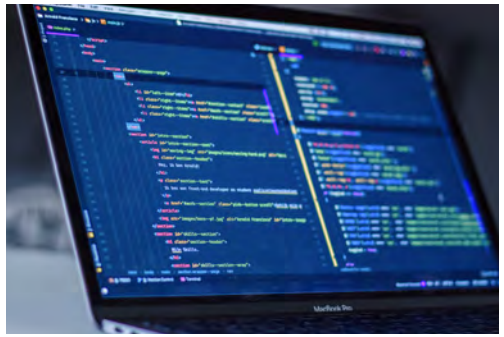
Intermediate level



Task 1. Warm-up

Look at the photos. Do you know the history of these inventions? 5 of them were invented by women. Any ideas which ones?

life raft



computer programming

ice-cream maker

iron

dishwasher

disposable diapers

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Task 2. Lead-in

Discuss the questions.

1. What are the best and the most useful inventions of mankind in the 20th and 21st centuries?
2. What famous inventors do you know? What were their inventions?
3. How did the invention of television change people's lives? Do you think it is a useful invention?
4. Who do you think is better at inventing, men or women? Explain your choice.
5. What inventions are expected in the 22nd century?

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Task 3. Reading

Read the article and answer the questions.

Women inventors may have had limited opportunities to showcase their abilities. But that doesn't mean they haven't left their mark in history. Some of these brilliant minds have imagined, made discoveries, and invented things that have made life better for us.

Let's look at the top women inventors responsible for some of the things we use every day.

In 1843, Nancy from Philadelphia became one of the most important people in history by patenting a design for a hand-operated ice cream maker. It's still used to the current day.

In 1944, US-born Grace Hopper and Howard Aiken designed Harvard Mark I computer, a five-tonne, room-sized machine. Hopper invented the compiler that translated written language into computer code and coined the terms "bug" and "debugging".

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Task 3. Reading

In 1882, US inventor Maria Beasley decided that people should stop dying at sea. People had been navigating the seas for millennia, but the lifeboats that existed at the time were not an effective product to help in case of an SOS situation. So she invented life rafts. Now, thanks to Maria, thousands of lives have been saved, including an estimated 706 from the famous Titanic sinking.

In 1850, Joel Houghton patented a wooden machine with a hand-turned wheel that splashed water on dishes. It was hardly a workable machine, but it was the first patent. In 1886, Cochran proclaimed in disgust "If nobody else is going to invent a dishwashing machine, I'll do it myself." And she did. Cochran invented the first practical dishwasher. At first, only hotels and large restaurants were buying her ideas. It was not until the 1950s that dishwashers caught on with the general public.

Marion Donovan pioneered the first disposable diaper. She said that one simple question guided her work: "What do I think will help a lot of people and most certainly will help me?" Her invention, patented in 1951, netted her a million dollars.

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Task 3. Reading

Answer the questions.

1. When was the ice cream maker invented? How much do you think its design has been changed compared with today's?
2. How was computer programming designed?
3. Were there any lifeboats before the invention of life rafts? Were they useful?
4. What was the difference between the first patent of the dishwasher and the one Cochran made?
5. What question guided Marion Donovan while inventing disposable diapers?

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Task 4. Vocabulary

Match the words with the definitions.

1. A life raft
2. To showcase
3. Disgust
4. To patent
5. To pioneer
6. Disposable
7. To catch on

A. To get the legal right to be the only person or company to make or sell a product for a particular number of years.

B. Strong feelings of dislike.

C. To become popular.

D. A raft to use if a ship must be abandoned in an emergency.

E. To show someone or something in a way that attracts attention and emphasizes their good qualities.

F. Intended to be used once.

G. To be one of the first people to do something.

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Task 5. Discussion

Discuss the questions using the new words where possible (A life raft, to showcase, disgust, to patent, to pioneer, disposable, to catch on)

1. Which of the five inventions do you think was the best?
2. Do you think you could live without these inventions? Why?
3. Do you use a dishwasher? Does it wash your plates and glasses safely?
4. What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of disposable diapers?
5. Is there anything important that was pioneered in your country?

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Task 6

Tell a person living in the 1500s about one of the most groundbreaking inventions in the 21st century while replying to the questions:

1. What does it do?
2. Why did you get it?
3. How often do you use it? How do you control it?
4. Do you think you will be using it in a couple of years?
5. Would you advise everyone to use it?
6. Would you be able to live in the 1500s without it?

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Keys

Task 1

Except the iron all other things were invented by women

Task 3

1. In 1843.
2. In 1944, US born Grace Hopper and Howard Aiken designed Harvard's Mark I computer, a five-tonne, room-sized machine. Hopper invented the compiler that translated written language into computer code and coined the terms "bug" and "debugging".
3. People had been navigating the seas for millennia, but the lifeboats that existed at the time were not an effective product to help in the event of a SOS situation.
4. It was a wooden machine with a hand-turned wheel that splashed water on dishes. It was hardly a workable machine.
5. "What do I think will help a lot of people and most certainly will help me?"

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Keys

Task 4

1 - D, 2 - E, 3 - B, 4 - A, 5 - G, 6 - F, 7 - C

Команда Skyteach объединила методистов, опытных преподавателей, профессиональных авторов статей, редакторов и дизайнеров. Вместе мы трудимся над тем, чтобы создавать качественные и доступные материалы для учителей.

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