The Antikythera mechanism

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| The geared mechanism was retrieved in 1900 from a Roman shipwreck, off the coast of Antikythera island.  It is of Greek origin and it is estimated that it was constructed around the end of the second century BC.  **How it worked**  The user of the mechanism could rotate a crank to set a date.  The device would calculate and display, through dials and indicators, the position and phase of the moon and the position of known planets, and predict solar eclipses. |  |

Task . Think, write, pair, share

Would you call the Antikythera mechanism a computer?

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How is the mechanism similar or different to modern computers?

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| **Similarities** | **Differences** |
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To help you answer these questions, you can also ask yourself the following questions:

* Why would such a mechanism be created? What sort of problem does it solve?
* Why were computers created? How do we use them? What sort of problems do they solve?

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