



Read the biography passage carefully. Then answer each question below in complete sentences.

Look for key facts about the person's early life, achievements, and impact. Use details from the passage to support your answers.

## Douglas Engelbart: The Man Who Augmented Human Intellect



Imagine a world where computers weren't just calculators, but tools that could extend human thought and creativity. This was the revolutionary vision of Douglas Engelbart, a true pioneer who shaped how we interact with technology every single day.

Born in Portland, Oregon, in 1925, Engelbart served in the Navy during World War II as a radar technician. After the war, he studied electrical engineering and was deeply inspired by an essay from Vannevar Bush called "As We May Think." Bush described a theoretical machine, the "Memex," which could store and link vast amounts of information, sparking Engelbart's lifelong quest to "augment human intellect."

In the 1960s, working at the Stanford Research Institute, Engelbart and his team developed many fundamental elements of modern computing. Their most famous achievement was the invention of the computer mouse, a device allowing users to point and click. They also pioneered hypertext, which lets you jump between related pieces of information, and networked computers, enabling collaboration. These inventions were famously showcased in 1968 during "The Mother of All Demos," where he presented a complete interactive computing system with a graphical user interface (GUI).

Despite these incredible breakthroughs, Engelbart's ideas were often considered too futuristic and expensive for their time. Funding was a constant struggle, and many



people, including fellow scientists, did not fully grasp the profound potential of his work. He faced skepticism and a lack of immediate adoption for years.

Today, nearly every computer user benefits from Engelbart's groundbreaking work. The mouse, hypertext links, and graphical interfaces are essential parts of our digital lives, from browsing the web to creating documents. His legacy reminds us that true innovation often requires a bold vision and unwavering belief in ideas that might seem impossible at first.

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### COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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(1) **Where did Douglas Engelbart and his team famously demonstrate their groundbreaking inventions in 1968?**

- (A) At the Stanford Research Institute     (B) In Portland, Oregon  
 (C) During World War II     (D) At a university in Europe

(2) **Douglas Engelbart was inspired by Vannevar Bush's idea of a theoretical machine called the \_\_\_\_\_.**

*— continue writing on the lines below*

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(3) **What does the word "augment" mean as it is used in the passage when referring to "augment human intellect"?**

- (A) to reduce or lessen something     (B) to make something smaller  
 (C) to make something greater or improve it  
 (D) to completely change something

(4)



**Why do you think Douglas Engelbart continued to develop his ideas even when they were considered "far ahead of their time" and faced skepticism? Use details from the passage to support your answer.**

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**(5) How has Engelbart's vision of interactive computing changed the world we live in today? What can we learn from his persistence in pursuing such a futuristic vision?**

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