

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Hedy Lamarr: The Actress Who Helped Invent Wireless Technology

Hedy Lamarr was a famous actress and an important inventor. Many people knew her for her beauty and talent in Hollywood movies, but few knew that she also created a technology that helped develop Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, and GPS.

### Early Life and Acting Career

Hedy Lamarr was born on November 9, 1914, in Vienna, Austria. As a child, she was very curious and loved science and technology. She also enjoyed acting and became a movie star in Europe when she was a teenager.

In the 1930s, she moved to Hollywood, California, to continue her acting career. She became a famous actress and starred in many movies. People around the world admired her, but what they didn't know was that she also spent her free time working on scientific inventions.

### Inventing Secret Technology

During World War II, Hedy Lamarr wanted to help the war effort. She learned that enemy ships were blocking radio signals that controlled torpedoes, making them miss their targets. She had an idea to create a new "frequency-hopping" technology that would change radio signals quickly, so they couldn't be blocked or tracked.

She worked with a scientist and musician named George Antheil to design this technology. They created a system that used piano rolls to change radio frequencies in a way that was hard to track. This invention was called spread spectrum technology and was later used in military communications.

### Challenges and Recognition

Even though Hedy Lamarr and George Antheil patented their invention in 1942, the U.S. Navy did not use it at the time. Many people thought that an actress could not be a scientist, so her ideas were ignored.

Years later, scientists realized how important her invention was. In the 1960s, her technology was finally used in military systems, and later, it became the foundation for Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, and GPS—technologies we use every day.

### Legacy and Influence

Hedy Lamarr never received money for her invention, but in 1997, she was awarded the Electronic Frontier Foundation Award for her contributions to science. Today, she is remembered not only as a Hollywood star but also as a brilliant inventor who changed the world. Her story teaches us that great ideas can come from anyone, and being curious and creative can lead to amazing discoveries.

