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**HEDY LAMARR**

**The Hollywood film star behind the invention of Wi-fi and mobile phones.**

The Austrian actress Hedy Lamarr was born in Vienna in

1914, as Hedwig Kiesler. She was a very clever girl, always 

interested in how things worked - she loved taking her music

boxes to pieces and putting them together again.

However, she also loved acting, so she left school early

without qualifications and started drama school.

**Hedy the film star**

Hedwig first worked in Czechoslovakian films, and she quickly

became a successful actress, often called 'the most beautiful

woman in the world'. She married in 1933, but her husband

didn't want her to work, and kept her locked in the house.

Finally, in 1937, she ran away to Paris. There she met an

American film producer, and under her new name, Hedy

Lamarr, she was soon a famous Hollywood actress.

Hedy's problem was that she soon got bored with film roles

that were just about being beautiful. She didn't enjoy

Hollywood parties, and liked to spend her free time inventing

things.

**Wartime work**

During World War II, she had an idea for making 

it difficult for the Germans to stop American radio

signals. She was the first person to think of

sending bits of information on different radio

waves, and then putting them together when

they arrived - like a jigsaw. Sadly, the US Navy

didn't take her seriously.

\* Taken from Headway Elementary. Oxford University Press.

**Answer the following questions:**

1. Why is Hedy Lamarr considered a prominent figure?

a. Because of her amazing Hollywood career.

b. Due to her participation in the war as a soldier.

c. She became the greatest female inventor of all times.

d. She had a key role in the development of modern technologies.

2. How is Hedy described in the first paragraph?

a. She hated acting.

b. She was curious.

c. She was a great student.

d. She was a good musician.

3. What made her escape to Paris?

a. The war

b. She wanted to go to school.

c. A husband who didn’t let her be free.

d. Her desire to work in a technology company.

4. True or false: Hedy’s ideas were implemented immediately.

True

False