

# THE ANTIKYTHERA MECHANISM

The Grayson School Project Series

## An ancient mystery

In 1901, sponge divers off the coast of Antikythera, Greece recovered an **enigmatic artifact** from an ancient shipwreck.

## A lost technology

In 2005, scientists examined the artifact with x-ray tomography and discovered a complicated **network of gears**. Such knowledge was lost in antiquity and technological works rivaling its complexity were not seen again until the 14th century.

## A cosmic purpose

The gears revealed the mechanism's true purpose: the Antikythera Mechanism was the **world's oldest analog computer**. Among other things, the Mechanism was used to **calculate dates of solar and lunar eclipses**.

## A replica is born

In 2010, **Andrew Carol** engineered a reproduction of the Mechanism out of LEGO. It includes 1,600 pieces and 110 gears: almost double the amount used in the original Antikythera Mechanism. The Grayson replica is based on **227 pages of instructions** generated from his original design.

## A world tour

The Grayson replica of the Antikythera Mechanism (affectionately called "Annie") visited Sydney, Australia, as part of the **World Council on Gifted and Talented Children's biennial World Conference**.

