

# ▶ Father of the Web ◀

Tim Berners-Lee may be one of the most important people you have never heard of. If you've ever gone **online** to look something up, you should thank him. He invented the World Wide Web. The World Wide Web is the system that allows people to use computers to find **data**, or information, on almost any topic.

Before 1989, people had used computers for many years. But there was no way for people to get information from a computer other than the one they were using, unless they actually sat down at another computer. This lack of a **network** made scientific research more difficult. Then, in 1989, Berners-Lee thought of a way to allow the **transmission** of information between computers.

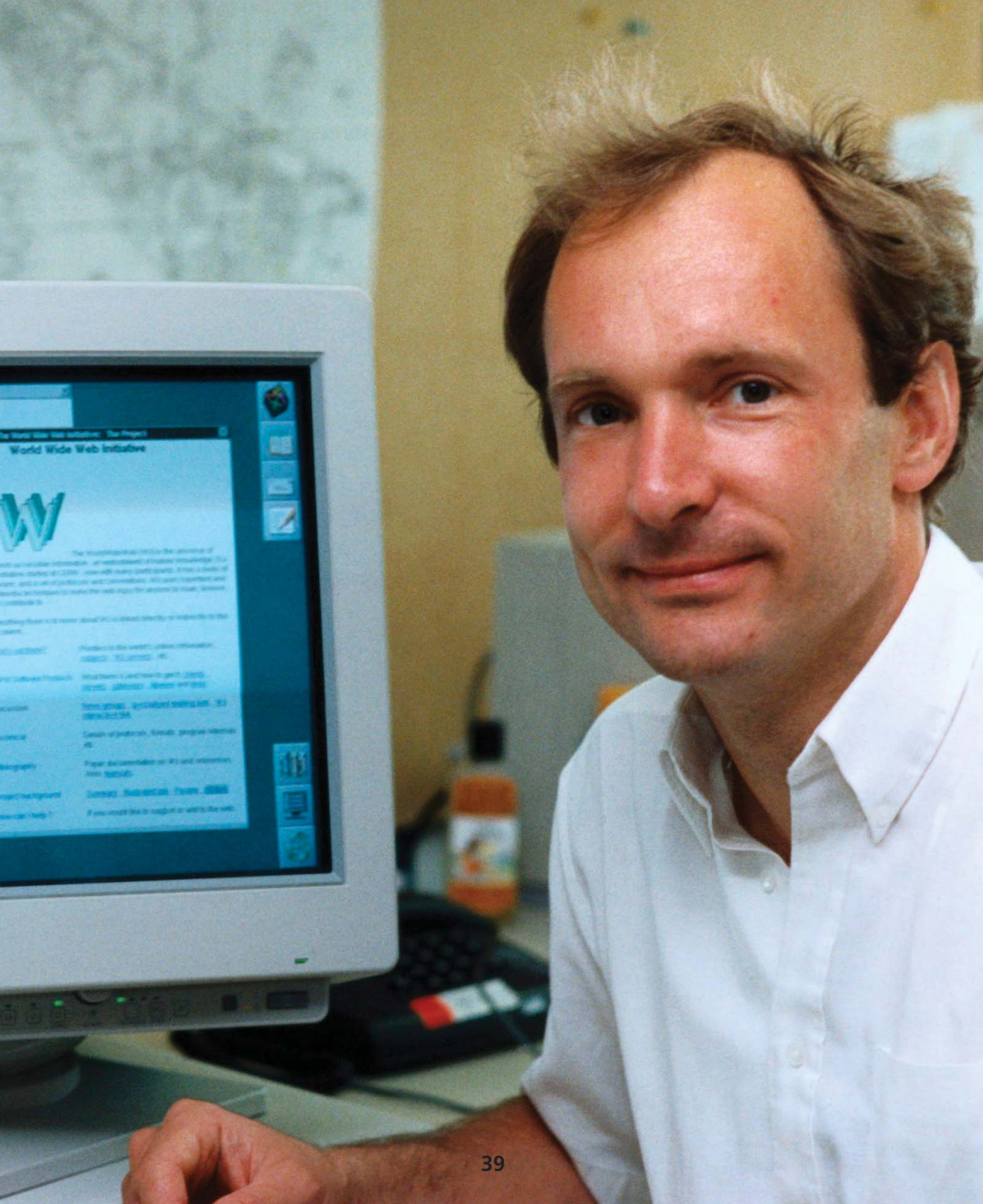
All the information in a computer must be in the form of numbers. This is a basic **principle** of today's computers. When you type a word into your computer, the computer uses built-in mathematical **equations** to turn that word into a series of numbers. Computers use these numbers to find information. When you go to the library, you often need a librarian to help you find the right book. Your computer is like an **artificial** librarian. The World Wide Web has many **functions**. Most importantly, it acts as a huge library. Instead of books, your computer helps you find Web sites.

Tim Berners-Lee created a network that allowed someone using one computer to get information that was stored in another computer, even a computer in another country. An important part of Berners-Lee's system is hypertext. Hypertext is a word or a phrase on a Web site that connects you to a different part of a Web site, or even a whole new Web site. When you're using a computer to look up a subject on the World Wide Web, you'll see hypertext. Hypertext is usually blue. If you click on the words in blue, new information appears on your computer screen right away. Being able to find information quickly is an important way the World Wide Web helps computer users.

Tim Berners-Lee is the man who invented the biggest "library" in the world. He forever changed the way people share information. He has received many honors for his work.

**COMPREHENSION** How is the World Wide Web like a library? Which words about science and technology did you hear in this article?







# The Time Capsule

The year was 2210. Wiping sweat from his brow, Treal said, "Tell me again, why do we have to use an **antique** tool like a shovel to dig the garden? No one has used a shovel since 2090."

Mara grinned. "My mom and dad want me to learn about life two hundred years ago," she replied. "That's what happens when your parents are **archaeologists**."

Treal grunted. He dug deeper, and suddenly a muffled *clang* came from underground. "Hey! I hit something!" Treal exclaimed.

Mara stuck her shovel in the dirt and came to look. Treal wiped away the soil covering the metal object. He pulled it out of the ground.

"What have you **unearthed**?" Mara asked. "Oh, it's a time capsule! My dad told me about these. A long time ago, our ancestors would put stuff in a metal container and bury it for people in the future to find."

"Cool!" Treal said. "Where's the switch to turn it on?"

"No switches," Mara explained. "The technology is on the inside." She tugged until the capsule opened.

"Wow! Look at these **ancestral** items!" Treal said. "But why did they bury the capsule way out here?"

"Back then, this **terrain** was covered with roads. I'm surprised they found a place to dig and bury this at all."

Treal pulled a crackly sheet from the container. "A real newspaper! July 4, 2010," he read aloud.

The friends took the artifacts from the capsule, one at a time. "What's this?" Treal asked, holding up a little metal device with numbers and a screen.

"That's called a cell phone," Mara replied. "My dad wrote an article about them. Everybody had one so they could talk to each other anytime."

"Yuck," Treal said. "I'm glad I live now and not back then."

"Me too. But it's fun to learn about our **heritage**." As she spoke, Mara gathered up the objects and put them back in the capsule. "Come on. Let's show my parents what happens when they let us **excavate** the yard."

**COMPREHENSION** What words helped you understand that the story involves digging into the past? How do Mara and Treal feel about their discovery?

