# **TIM BERNERS-LEE, THE MAN WHO INVENTED THE WEB**

“Unlike so many of the inventions that have moved the world, this one truly was the work of one man... the World Wide Web is Berners-Lee's alone. He designed it. He loosed it on the world. And he more than anyone else has fought to keep it open, non-proprietary, and free... It's hard to overstate the impact of the global system he created. It's almost Gutenbergian. He took a powerful communications system that only the elite could use and turned it into a mass medium.” --*Time Magazine*

Tim Berners-Lee, a British scientist, invented the World Wide Web (WWW) in 1989, while working at CERN. The web was originally conceived and developed **to meet** the demand for automated information-sharing between scientists in universities and institutes around the world.

The first website at CERN – and in the world – was dedicated to the World Wide Web project itself and **was** **hosted** on Berners-Lee's NeXT computer. In 2013, CERN launched a project to restore this first ever website: info.cern.ch.

On 30 April 1993, CERN put the World Wide Web software in the public domain. Later, CERN made a release **available** with an open licence, a more sure way to maximise its dissemination. These actions **allowed** the web to flourish.

The early web community established by Tim Berners-Lee produced some revolutionary ideas that are now spreading **far beyond** the technology sector:

* Decentralisation: No permission is needed from a central authority **to** **post** anything on the web.
* Non-discrimination: If I pay to connect to the Internet with a certain quality of service, and you pay to connect with that or a greater quality of service, then we can both **communicate** at the same level.
* Bottom-up design: Instead of code being written and controlled by a small group of experts, it was developed in full view of everyone, encouraging maximum participation and experimentation.
* Universality: For anyone to be able to publish anything on the web, all the computers involved have to speak the same languages to each other, no matter what different hardware people are using; where they live; or what cultural and political beliefs they have.
* Consensus: For universal standards to work, everyone had to agree to use them. Tim and others **achieved** this consensus by giving everyone a say in creating the standards, through a transparent, participatory process.

New permutations of these ideas are giving rise to **exciting** new approaches in fields as diverse as information (Open Data), **politics** (Open Government), **scientific research** (Open Access), education, and culture (Free Culture). To date, however, we have only scratched the surface of how these principles could change society and politics for the better.

*1. The web is almost Gutengerbian (line 4). Explain in your own words why.* **Gutenberg invented the printing press in 1440. The printing press allows us to share large amounts of information quickly and in huge numbers. In fact, the printing press is so significant that it has come to be known as one of the most important inventions of our time. It drastically changed the way society evolved.**

*2. Find the translation into English for the words in Spanish in bold.*