

COMPUTING · GRADES 5–6

How the Internet Got Here

Eight moments that shaped the network

Key dates

1969 — ARPANET. The first computer network connecting two universities in California.

1971 — First email sent (Ray Tomlinson). The @ symbol was first used.

1989 — Tim Berners-Lee invents the World Wide Web at CERN, Switzerland.

1993 — The first web browser (Mosaic) makes the web easy for non-experts.

1998 — Google launched. Search becomes the doorway to the web.

2004 — Facebook launched (originally just for Harvard). Social media takes over.

2007 — First iPhone. The internet goes into everyone's pocket.

2022 — ChatGPT launched. AI joins everyday internet use.

Discuss

1. What's the difference between the INTERNET and the WORLD WIDE WEB?
2. Tim Berners-Lee gave the WWW away for free. What might be different if he had charged for it?
3. Pick the moment you think changed the world MOST. Defend your choice.
4. What might be the next big internet moment?

