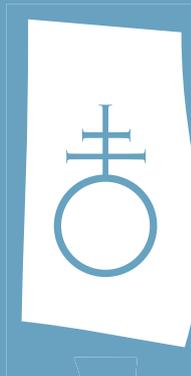


PRINTING
PRESS

books
letterpress

GUTENBERG



NATIONAL
PRINT MUSEUM
Músaem Náisiúnta Cló

Primary School
Curriculum Links

tablet
illuminate
PAPYRUS
TYPE
scribe

Printing
and Bookmaking

Activities &
Outreach

Fact and
Activity Pack

bookbinding
MANUSCRIPT
books
Interactive
Classroom
Activities

Did you know that without the printing press, books like the ones we read today would not exist?

This Primary School Teacher's Fact and Activity Pack will take your pupils on a journey of discovery through the history of books, where they will learn how the invention of the printing press changed the way books were made so that everyone can enjoy them today!

FUN

suitable for 4th - 6th Class

Factsheets



Activity 1 - Create a Clay Tablet (Factsheet 1)

Your pupils are scribes living and working in ancient Mesopotamia and they have written down everything they need to do their job on a clay tablet (see highlighted words on Factsheet 1). 6000 years later an archaeologist on a dig has found their clay tablets. They are brought to a scholar to translate. Using plasticine or modelling clay and the end of a paint brush or tip of a pencil, have your pupils recreate their tablets, using the English alphabet to write out what it said.

***Teachers will need** - plasticine or modelling clay, pencils or paintbrushes and a rolling pin. If you want to try out some cuneiform script, a code chart is available from our friends at the British Museum: <http://www.britishmuseum.org/pdf/cuneiform.pdf>

Cross-curricular links: History, Visual Arts and English

Activity 2 - Create a Classroom Scroll (Factsheet 1)

Create a sentence with as many words as there are pupils in the class (do not tell your class what the sentence is). Give each pupil in the class one word from the sentence at random. On an A3 or A4 page get each pupil to write their word down (in whatever writing style they choose). Next, ask the pupil with the first word of the sentence to tape the end of their page to the rolling pin (if using). Roll the page around the pin and ask the next pupil to attach their page to the first page and continue to roll the pages around the pin. When the last page is done, attach the open end to the rolling pin. Ask two pupils to hold each end of the scroll and unroll from one end. As it unrolls, have the whole class read out the sentence as it appears!

***Teachers will need** - A3 or A4 paper, pencils, crayons or colouring pencils, glue or tape, two rolling pins or two tube-like objects.

Cross-curricular links: History, Visual Arts and English



Activity 3 - Design and Create an Illuminated Letter (Factsheet 2)

Using simple steps, your pupils can create their very own illuminated letter, similar to those created by the illuminators of the past. First, have your pupils choose what letter they would like to create (this could be their own first initial or you might like to choose a letter of the alphabet for each pupil). Next, ask each pupil to choose a theme for their design e.g. flowers, animals, mosaic etc. Then, using the materials outlined below, have each pupil design and create their own illuminated letter.

***Teachers will need** - Paper, pencils, rulers, crayons or colouring pencils (gold crayons or colouring pencils would be ideal to create the gold leaf effect).

Cross-curricular links: History, Visual Arts and English



Activity 4 - Creative Writing: The 42 Line Story (Factsheet 3)

As we mentioned in Factsheet 3, the first book to be printed on Gutenberg's printing press was the 42 Line Bible. Ask your pupils to create a 42 Line Story, which includes a beginning, middle and end. This will introduce them to the idea of structure in relation to creative writing. If this activity is successful and you want to build on it, you could try a 42 Word Story. This is a fun way to explore vocabulary, grammar and punctuation. With the limit of 42 words, pupils will have to think carefully about each word that they want to include.

***Teachers will need** - Paper and pencils.

Cross-curricular links: History and English

Activity 5 - Create a Research Diary

If your pupils have joined a National Print Museum Bookmaking Workshop, they can use their completed handmade book as a Research Diary. Here is a list of ideas of how the Research Diary can be used by pupils in class.

1. To collect new vocabulary they discover in class.
2. To collect important and interesting facts they discover in class.
3. Mini Research Project: The printed book or the e-reader - which do you prefer? Discuss in class and have pupils use their book to write down their arguments for why they prefer either type of book.
4. Mini Research Project: The world without books. Discuss in class and have pupils use their book to write down what they think the world would be like without books to read.

Cross-curricular links: History and English

At the National Print Museum and Outreach Workshop activities

Activity 1 - Children's Interactive Tour and Outreach Workshop

The National Print Museum offers an educational, interactive and activity-based guided tour specifically designed for Primary School children. Your class will travel back in time to experience what it was like to be a young apprentice printer by exploring the Museum's Print Shop-style layout – the composing area, printing area and finishing area. Children learn all about Johann Gutenberg, the inventor of the printing press, and how newspapers, books and posters were created before the arrival of today's computers.

Through three tactile and engaging activities and working directly with artefacts from the Museum's collection, children learn about a selection of the traditional printing machines (1), are given the opportunity to experience traditional hand-setting and printing (2) and using the Japanese paper craft of Origami learn how to make and decorate their very own printer's hat (3). In addition, children test their knowledge with our Primary School workbook!

Contact the Education Officer - education@nationalprintmuseum.ie - for more information on how to book, cost, maximum numbers etc. *Elements 2 and 3 are available as part of our Outreach programme.

Activity 2 - Bookmaking Workshop (see Factsheet 2 & 7)

Teachers can book a Bookmaking workshop at the National Print Museum or have the Museum come to you as part of our Outreach Programme. In this workshop, using traditional and modern methods and materials, children learn to handcraft their own hardback book, which they then decorate and personalise with fun craft materials such as feathers, sequins, ribbon and fancy paper. Children can use their completed book as a diary, sketchbook or notebook.

Contact the Education Officer - education@nationalprintmuseum.ie - for more information on how to book, cost, maximum numbers etc.

