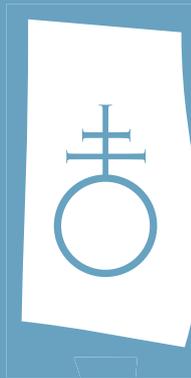


PRINTING
PRESS

books

letterpress

GUTENBERG



NATIONAL
PRINT MUSEUM
Músaem Náisiúnta Cló

Primary School
Curriculum Links

tablet
illuminate
PAPYRUS
TYPE
scribe

Printing
and Bookmaking

Factsheet 4

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

Factsheet 4:

How Johann Gutenberg's invention changed the world!



The Spread of Printing - Have Book, Will Read!

Gutenberg's invention was a great success and it was not long before his new printing technology spread far and wide. By 1500, there were nearly 1000 printing workshops in Europe. Because books were now easier and quicker to make, this meant that they were much cheaper to buy. More people than ever before could afford to buy books and this led to many people learning how to read (**mass literacy**).

Before Gutenberg's invention, most books were religious texts like the Bible. As the new technology spread, new books about art, science and books just for entertainment were printed all over Europe. Other things like maps, music and newspapers were also printed. Just as we use television, radio and the internet today, the printing press helped people all over the world to communicate with each other and find out about the world around them.

The Renaissance, Reformation and Scientific Revolution - Impossible without the Printing Press!

The Renaissance

Between the 14th and 17th centuries, a movement called the **Renaissance** took place in Europe. The Renaissance was a time of great creativity, imagination and curiosity. During this time, there was a rebirth of interest in science, art and education and great leaps were made in each discipline. Without the invention of movable type and the printing press by Gutenberg, the Renaissance would not have been possible. Newly printed books helped to spread new ideas quicker and farther than ever before.

The Reformation

The **Reformation**, which occurred during the Renaissance period, was when a split happened in the **Catholic Church** and a new type of **Christianity** called **Protestantism** was born. Without the invention of movable type and the printing press by Gutenberg, the Reformation might never have happened. As we know, before Gutenberg many people in Europe did not know how to read, so they depended on the Church to help them understand the Bible. After Gutenberg, people were able to read the Bible for themselves for the first time. This led to people making up their own minds about the teachings of the Bible.

The Scientific Revolution

The development of modern science would also not have been possible without the invention of movable type and the printing press by Gutenberg. His invention made it much easier to create and print many copies of scientific books, diagrams, maps and charts. This led to the spread of scientific ideas across Europe and by the end of the 16th century, anyone who could read could learn all about geometry, anatomy, astronomy and physics.



Printed map of the world from the year 1635

Did you know ?

Gutenberg's invention of printing did not come to Ireland until 1551, when a man called Humphrey Powell was sent by Queen Elizabeth I to print a Protestant prayer book called the Book of Common Prayer. It was hoped that the book would help convert the Irish Catholic population to Protestantism (the new religion born out of the Reformation), but it did not work.

Curriculum Links

History:

Working as a Historian: Time and chronology, Change and continuity, Cause and effect, Using evidence.
Strands: Story, Continuity and change over time, Life, society, work and culture in the past, Eras of Change and Conflict, Politics, Conflict and Society

English:

Strands: Competence and confidence in using language (Units: Reading: Reading for pleasure and information; Developing interests, attitudes, information retrieval skills and the ability to think; Responding to text)

Science:

Strand Unit: Science and the environment