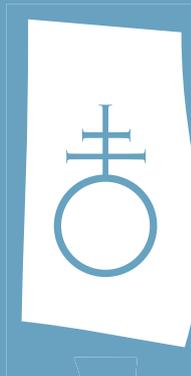


PRINTING
PRESS

books
letterpress

GUTENBERG



NATIONAL
PRINT MUSEUM
Músaem Náisiúnta Cló

Primary School
Curriculum Links

tablet
illuminate
PAPYRUS
TYPE
scribe

Printing
and Bookmaking

Factsheet 7

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

1.

Case of Type - this is a wooden case where all the pieces of movable type are stored. Each letter of the alphabet has its own compartment in the case. The small letters (lowercase) and the capital letters (uppercase) are stored together in the one case.



2.

Movable Type - these are pieces of metal with a raised letter of the alphabet on top. Type is available in many different designs such as Times New Roman and Garamond. Each style is known as a typeface or font.



3.

Compositor - the compositor has the job of putting all the movable type together to get it ready for printing. In the past compositors were paid for their speed and docked wages if they made mistakes.



4.

Composing Stick - this is a metal stick used by a compositor to set the type. The compositor holds the composing stick in their left hand and selects the type from the case with their right hand. The type is placed into the composing stick upside down and back to front.



5.

Galley and Cord - once the composing stick is full, the compositor places the type onto a tray called a galley and ties it up with a piece of cord to keep it in place.



6.

Furniture and Chase - the type is then transferred into a metal frame called a chase. Pieces of wood, called furniture, act as spacers between sentences, paragraphs and the sides of the page.



7.

Quoin and Key - the type and furniture are then locked up tightly using small springs called quoins and a special key.



8.

Hammer and Plainer - the final step before printing a proof is to level all the type and furniture with a hammer and a piece of wood called a plainer.



9.

Forme - is a complete block of movable type which is ready for printing.



10.

Ink and Roller - the ink is placed onto the forme with a roller.



11.

Proofing Press - before the compositor hands the forme over to the printer to be printed, he first runs a quick print on a proofing press, to check for any mistakes.



12.

Printer - the printer has the job of operating the printing press, which will print many of the pages set by the compositor.

