

VII Monks in the scriptorium!

PICTURE 1



1- A manuscript

PICTURE 2



2 – A scriptorium

PICTURE 3



3 – A parchment

What is this?

When was it made?

Who wrote it?

What makes you think this?

Do you think many people could write? Why? _____

What are the people in picture 2 doing? _____

Where are they? _____

What do you think their life was like? _____

Did all monks do the same tasks? _____

What is a parchment?

What is a quill pen?

Can you think of any other writing material from the period?

Medieval writing

In the 12th century the writing was called black letter or gothic letter. During the Middle Ages many people could not read, however priests could read *and* write. They taught the pages to read and write and they also worked in the churches.

To write they used a [quill pen](#). Paper was quite cheap and common in the 1400s (it was imported from Spain and other countries) and it was used for writing letters. Important documents were written on [parchment](#) – dried and prepared sheep or calf skin.

Books were written in [Scriptoriums](#) (which were found in the monasteries) and it took a long time to finish just one book. This explains why they were so expensive and only kings and noble people could afford to buy them.

Sometimes the words were decorated with fantastic pictures. These kinds of works were called [illuminated manuscripts](#). Sometimes the work was so superb that there are some which are considered authentic works of art today. All books were written by hand until printing was invented by Gutenberg, a German smith at the end of the 15th century.

1. Answer the questions.

1. Who could write in the medieval times? _____
2. What materials did priests and monks use to write? _____
3. Who invented printing? _____
4. In what century was printing invented? _____
5. Can you think why most people did not know how to write or read? _____

2. Write the meanings of these words using the dossier or the Internet. (Glossary)

GOTHIC LETTER	SCRIPTORIUM	PARCHMENT	QUILL PEN
BEATUS	PRIESTS	ILLUMINATED MANUSCRIPTS	

3. Making a medieval hand illustrated-book.

Parchment making

Medieval manuscripts were written on animal skins, called parchments. The skins were first soaked in water then the skins were scraped with a knife. The skin remained flat until dry.

Writing

After, the parchment was ruled in coloured ink. The scribe could write on it with a quill pen, made from a feather which had been properly cut so ink could flow.

Illumination

The word **illumination**, describes the glow produced by some colours, particularly gold and silver. To start, the artist made a sketch drawing with the quill. The areas where gold was to be laid were prepared and gold leaves were placed and polished. The illuminator applied paints made from different materials mixed with egg white. This kind of painting was called **tempera**.

Binding

When the writing and illuminating were done, the parchment sheets were folded and fastened in groups. Sheets were ordered and sewn together and, finally, the wooden covers of the book were fastened. The binding was covered in leather or fabric.

- ❖ Underline all the materials used to make a manuscript. Write them down.
- ❖ Circle all the tools used to make a manuscript. Write them down in a list.
- ❖ Summarise the 4 steps of making a medieval book.



4. La Seu d'Urgell Beatus.

The **Beatus** of La Seu d'Urgell- Catalonia-, a hand-illustrated book from the 10th Century, is a copy from **Liébana's Beatus** comments about Apocalypse.

- ❖ What does a **Beatus** mean? Circle the correct answer.

A painting

A hand illustrated manuscript

A book

1. Search gothic letters in Internet and write your name in gothic letters. Use the grid.

Papermaking

Chinese craftsmen kept the method of making paper secret for centuries until the Arabs managed to find out the formula. First, they spread the technique of paper making through Muslim Empire and later, it spread to Europe via the Spanish Peninsula in the 10th and 11th centuries, where Muslims remained for centuries.

In the 12th century, there were already some [paper-mills](#) scattered next to the rivers from the South of Spain to the northern areas, such as Catalonia. Spanish paper was high-quality so it was quite popular abroad but in the 1500s French and Italian paper competed with the Spanish.

During the Middle Ages, paper, so common nowadays, competed with papyrus and parchment, the traditional material used to write on until Medieval times. When the Gutenberg printing press was invented in the mid 1400s, paper became the main material used for writing.

There were some paper mills in Spain. In Capellades, a village near Barcelona, there were several paper-mills in the past. You can visit an interesting Paper [Mill](#) Museum there!

1. Answer the questions

Which was the first civilization to use paper? It was _____

What is a paper-mill? A paper-mill is _____

Who found out the paper making formula? They were _____

When was the formula spread to Europe? It was _____

Where were there paper-mills in Spain in the 12th century? There _____

Was Spanish paper popular in Europe? Yes and

What other countries made paper in Europe? _____

Where can you visit a Paper-Mill Museum? I can visit a

2. Use the Internet to research other kind of mills and what they were used for. You can look for some pictures.

Paper making process

In Europe artisans used linen and cotton [rags](#) to produce paper. They beat the fibres in water to make a pulp. Next, the paper pulp was laid on a wired mould and the water drained out of it, leaving only the paper fibres.

The wet paper pages were pressed in order to get the water out. Finally the sheets were hung in an upper airing room until dry (pictures 1 and 2).

Not long ago in Spain there were still ragmen who knocked on people's doors asking for rags. Nowadays all paper is made from wood or recycled from used paper.

3. Explain in your own words the following nouns.

rags

ragman

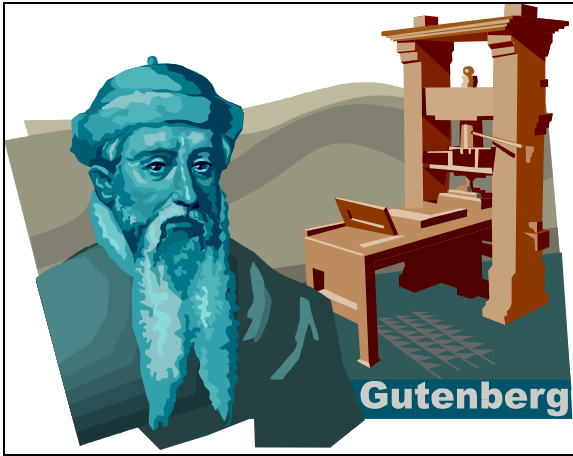
wired

fibre

4. Order the sentences about paper making. Write the sentences in order.

- 1 ___ Lie the pulp on a mould and begin to dry it.
- 2 ___ Hang up the sheets until completely dry.
- 3 ___ Take some linen and rags.
- 4 ___ Press the pages to squeeze the water out.
- 5 ___ Beat the rags in water to produce pulp: a mixture of water and the fibres.

Johannes Gutenberg



Johannes Gutenberg (c. 1398-1468) was a German smith who invented the printing press in Europe in 1450. His best work was the Guttenberg Bible. Books could be purchased by more people because books were cheaper and more affordable.

5. Unscramble the sentences and answer the questions:

1. born where Gutenberg was? _____

2. what his was job previous? _____

3. did live when he? _____

4. 1450s what he invent in did the? _____

5. work most what important was his? _____

6. revolutionary what press printing the makes a invention? _____

7. Gutenberg describe you Johannes can? _____

8. Bible what Gutenberg material the is? _____

9. movable are what types the? _____

6. Oral activity. In pairs ask your classmates similar questions about their families.

Where was your father born? / What's your father's job?

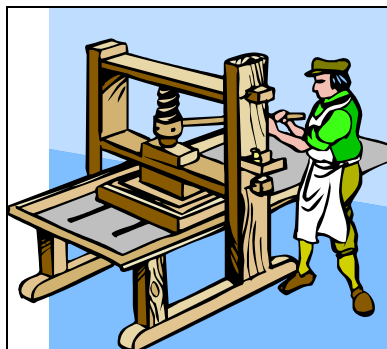
7. Write a profile of a member of your classmate's family using the information you have found out in the oral activity.

8. Draw a timeline with all the dates in the dossier. Timeline maker in Internet.

9. Johannes Gutenberg word search. Bellow you have a list of 22 words.

G N I T N I R P E G M S T J O
M Z N N A O Q D L S R K G L W
M T A K F R E W B E O R Z R W
X H D J S O E L I O T W I O G
H F V S Y D R K B M N T A R B
T V D U S K Q M N A E U E E T
J M M U P L Y U A S V B D R C
G U N R E R O Y M T N O R W S
O N K L E T N O S E I C M E D
U A L P H A B E T R P O W K R
P Q A T M E D T F P G P N B O
Z P T R P D U B A I R I A K W
A Y E Y F G P I R E N E B M V
X G M K P H G H C C S D S K F
B S J K J E G P F E O H D S E

ALPHABET, BIBLE, BOOK, COPIED, CRAFTSMAN, GERMANY, GUTENBERG,
INFORMATION, INK, INVENTOR, LETTERS, MASTERPIECE, METAL, MOVABLE,
PAPER, PRESS, PRINTING, READ, TOOLS, TYPE, WORDS, WRITE



10. Write 6 true sentences using the words you have found. Use your notebook.