

## History and Literacy

Pupils should be taught about: ♣ changes within living memory. Where appropriate, these should be used to reveal aspects of change in national life

♣ the lives of significant individuals in the past who have contributed to national and international achievements. Some should be used to compare aspects of life in different periods

William Caxton and Tim Berners-Lee

In 1476 William Caxton designed the printing press in England.

Prior to this, books were handwritten mainly by monks and religious people. Look at Lindisfarne Gospel using zoom function to show detail of design and look at the handwriting.

Use British Library website to look at old pictures of illuminated letters that used to create in books by monks. <https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/lindisfarne-gospels#>

**Activity** - Children can then design their own illuminated letter of their choice or their first initial. Discuss how long books would have taken to create in monks time (up to a year) and how valuable they were as an object. Emphasise how intricate patterns are.

In 1440 Johannes Gutenberg from Germany invented the printing press and revolutionised the production of books. Printers were now able to make multiple copies of a book. William Caxton set up the first printing press in England in 1476.

Watch short films listed below and discuss with your child.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1kOmdSlpCm4> – Guttenberg press film showing how books produced using metal type sett. Caxton used these ideas for his printing press.

Show now short film below about William Caxton in London.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PwbYmHrvjSY> short film about invention of Caxton's printing press.

<https://www.bl.uk/treasures/caxton/record.asp?LHPage=-1v&LHvol=&LHCopy=1&RHPage=0r&RHvol=&RHCopy=1&disp=s&Linked=0#DispTop> - images of Caxton's books held in British Library

<https://www.bl.uk/treasures/caxton/woodcuts.html> images produced by woodcuts for books that Caxton produced.

**Activity** - Using a potato/sponge/floristry oasis/stamping set, try to carve out a letter and produce your own printed piece of work.

**Activity** - Write a few sentences in your book to show how printing books developed from the monks producing books by hand using illuminated letters and taking up to a year to produce one copy, to the development of the printing press by Guttenberg and William Caxton in the UK.

(Remember all sentences should be written using capital letters, full stops and joined, neat handwriting where possible. Try to extend your sentences using such words as 'so, if, because, when, that' and if possible, start with one of these conjunctions. Eg When William Caxton started the first printing press in England, it meant that many books could be made in a short time.

Now compare life during Medieval times to the modern day invention of World Wide Web by Tim Berners Lee.

World wide web created in 1989.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zkcq39/articles/z2nbgk7> short film to explain what www is and how it is used. Site information about Tim Berners Lee.

<https://www.bbc.com/programmes/p028wq5r> interview with Tim Berners Lee.

His invention led to the world wide availability of data and documents. Documents didn't have to be printed in order to be viewed which made articles and information available to millions of people and changed the way we communicate.

**Activity** - On the phone/ipad/or by writing a letter, talk to a grandparent/older relative about what life was like before the internet? How did they read and get information? What about great grandparents? How did they get information? (Newspapers/radio/books)

Write out a few questions and then write their answers about how they communicated with each other. Remember to punctuate your questions with capital letters and full stops.

**Final activity** – Write a paragraph to answer the following questions:-

Which era would you prefer to live in? Why?

What are the positives of books?

What are the positives of the World Wide Web?

What are the negatives of books?

What are the negatives of the World Wide Web?