

Printing Press

Gap fill

Listen to the story and fill in the blanks.

The printing press with _____ letters that can be moved is one of the world's great _____. It changed the way people learn and think. Early printing systems used _____ of wood.

Words or pictures were _____ into the block. Ink was put on the board. A piece of paper was then _____ down on the ink. Book _____ with blocks of wood likely started in China around the year _____. Books about medicine were common. By 1300, woodblock printing was in _____.

Printing with blocks had one key _____ point. Making new blocks was a slow _____ that needed lots of labour. Each new block took _____ to make. Printing with movable letters was a big _____. Each letter was on a _____ block. Put some blocks together and you spell a word. String many blocks together and you _____ sentences. When it was time to print a new page, _____ the letters around was relatively easy.

The printing press with _____ letters started in China around 1000. It wasn't popular because the Chinese _____ has so many characters. That was a problem because _____ shops needed many workers to find letters and make words. In the _____, Johannes Gutenberg made a printing press with movable metal letters. He also made a special _____ that worked well on paper. The printing press was _____ in Europe. By 1480, there were more than _____ printing presses. By 1500, there were _____ of books.

His press _____ the range of information people could read. Books helped _____ share information and learn new things. People like Galileo and Newton were _____ ideas that started a revolution in science. Books also made religion less _____ because people had more information and were _____ for themselves. New information and _____ ideas encouraged people to ask questions. They _____ about nature, stars, and the purpose of government. Thanks to the printing press, they _____ some answers.

Synonym match

Match the words or phrases.

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. string | a. enhancement |
| 2. weak point | b. variety |
| 3. improvement | c. sequence |
| 4. range | d. effortless |
| 5. easy | e. flaw |

True or false

Choose the correct answer.

1. The printing press started in China and appeared in Europe 200 years later. T or F
2. Wooden blocks made early printing slow. T or F
3. The first press had a separate wooden block for each letter. T or F
4. Gutenberg invented the printing press with movable letters. T or F
5. By 1500, there were millions of printed publications. T or F

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Anagrams

Move letters. Make a new word.

FUPROELW _____

ECPORSS _____

AVELOBM _____

ENIMCDIE _____

ITSNGIFH _____

SGNTRI _____

ESL discussion questions

Talk about the story

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1. What kind of story is this?
 2. Describe the state of printing press technology before Gutenberg.
 3. What was Gutenberg's unique contribution?
 4. Why did printing with movable letters not catch on in China ?
 5. Speculate about the possible causal relationship between Gutenberg and future scientific achievements.
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Writing practice

Put the words in the correct order.

1. create / and / sentences / blocks / together / you / many / String

2. of / wood / systems / printing / used / blocks / Early

3. on / paper / well / ink / worked / made / special / He / also / that / a

4. presses / than / 100 / 1480 / there / printing / were / more / By

5. was / of / needed / new / Making / slow / lots / a / labour / blocks / that / process
