



Early printing technology

ACTIVITIES

- 1 Six sentences have been removed from the text. Choose the one that fits each gap.
- A The first movable printing type was created about 1040
 - B Gutenberg's type pieces were created uniquely from alloys of antimony, tin and lead
 - C By the 9th century, China had started printing on paper with the first ever completed printed book
 - D After Germany, Italy became the next recipient of his invention
 - E Created in China, the printing press revolutionized society there
 - F Woodblock printing was also used in Japan and Korea at the time

Printing is the ability to produce information, images and text in a variety of forms and make it available to a large number of people. This is why its invention can be considered crucial and vital in the life of human beings, because of the role it played in spreading knowledge and literacy all over the world. 1 before being further developed in Europe in the 15th Century by Johannes Gutenberg and his invention of the Gutenberg press.

The history of printing is believed to have started in East Asia, where the woodblock printing technique of patterns, images and text printing was highly in use. This habit began in China, mostly as a way to print something on textiles before being done on paper. 2, known as the Diamond Sutra (868 A.D.). It was created with panels of hand-carved wood blocks in reverse. Some other texts have survived from Dunhuang as well, including a printed calendar mathematic charts, a vocabulary guide, children's educational material, dictionaries and almanacs. It was during this period of early printing that rolled-up scrolls began to be replaced by book-formatted texts. 3, and metal block printing was also developed at some point during that period. Block printing was the first form to enter Europe, mostly as a way of printing motifs on cloth and by the 14th century, it was a common development. In the 15th century, woodcut books and block books were printed with both images and text, mostly carved on a single block and were mostly affordable alternatives to books and manuscripts printed on

a movable printing method.

Movable printing – the typography and printing method that uses metal movable pieces made by matrices casting with letter punches used for striking – gave the printing world a lot of flexibility in contrast with block printing or hand copying. 4, from porcelain, by Bi Sheng in China. Porcelain broke easily and by 1298 Wang Zheng had carved out of wood a durable movable type. In 1230, metal type printing movables made of bronze were invented in Korea.

By 1450, the first modern movable printing type was introduced by Johannes Gutenberg in Europe, including crucial type casting innovations founded on hand mould and matrix. 5, which are still used today. After the printing of the Gutenberg Bible in 1455 and its low affordable cost, the superiority of the printing press and movable type printing by extension was established and spread around Europe and across the world. All movable printing types today derive from Gutenberg's innovations. 6, when the printing press was brought to the country in 1465. By 1470, Italian printers began to make a successful trade in printed matter. Then Gutenberg's invention was brought to France, Spain and England, where William Caxton set up a press in Westminster Abbey, and he worked as a printer for the monarchy. Modern printing developments today include xerography, developed in 1938, Inkjet printing, Laser Printing, 3D printing and Digital Press created in 1993.

- 2 Read the text again and answer the following questions.
- 1 Why was printing a great invention?
 - 2 Where did printing start?
 - 3 What was the first printed book called?
 - 4 What were rolled-up scrolls replaced by?
 - 5 What is the difference between block and movable printing?
 - 6 What did Gutenberg do?
 - 7 Why did Gutenberg's model spread so fast?
 - 8 What other forms of printing technology are common today?
- 3 Match each word or phrase with its translation.
- | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Woodblock | A Matrice |
| 2 Hand-carved | B Colata |
| 3 Letter punch | C Matrice in legno |
| 4 Casting | D Punzoni con lettere |
| 5 Hand mould | E Calco a mano |
| 6 Matrix | F Intagliato a mano |
- 4 Do an internet search and write a short paragraph on one of the modern printing developments.