

Gutenberg Press Conference

Subject: Social Studies, History

Grade level: 8-12

Rationale or Purpose:

Students will assume a role as a person from the Renaissance or a member of the press to ask and answer questions in order to determine the effects of the invention of movable type, printing, and of the Gutenberg Bible. Students will propose possible responses different individuals had to the invention and theorize some universal reactions to societal change.

Materials:

Internet access: <http://www.hrc.utexas.edu/exhibitions/education/modules/gutenberg>

Nameplates for panel members

Press corps worksheet

Panel worksheet

Lesson Duration: two to three class periods

Objectives: 113.33

(23A) give examples of major mathematical and scientific discoveries and technological innovations that occurred at different periods in history and describe the changes produced by these discoveries and innovations

(25B) locate and use primary and secondary sources such as computer software, databases, media and news services, biographies, interviews, and artifacts to acquire information

(25C) analyze information by identifying cause-and-effect relationships, comparing, contrasting, making generalizations and predictions, and drawing inferences and conclusions

Activity:

Step 1: First day introduction: On a sheet of butcher paper or the chalkboard, list students' responses to some of the following questions:

- How does availability of the Internet change the way homework can be done?
- In what ways does access to the Internet change the possibilities of education?
- How do you think desktop publishing changed the lives of printers?
- What other businesses became obsolete or worried about becoming obsolete with the advent of the Internet?
- How can organizations and individuals use the Internet to promote their religious views?
- If you wanted to make money from information on the Internet or on computers in general, what would you sell and how would you market your product?

Step 2: Assign the following roles for the panel to individual students:

--scribe
--priest
--nun
--merchant
--Johann Gutenberg
--Johann Fust
--papermaker
--illuminator
--noble
--middle class woman
--peasants

(Note: You may want to have more than one priest, merchant, etc. Those students may work together in researching their role.)

Any student without one of the above roles is assigned to the press corps.

Using the **Gutenberg Education Module**, as well as their textbook and other resources, students must research their respective roles. Each member of the press corps must write four questions to ask either specific individuals or the entire panel. Along with each question, the student must explain the background for and the importance of the question as well as a predicted response to the question. Panel members must create a persona for themselves and predict and answer two questions they might be asked. Extra credit may be given for costumes.

Step 3: Day two

A student or the teacher may take the role of the moderator. Make sure that panel members are seated at the front of the classroom, facing the press corps, with nameplates clearly visible. Moderator should introduce the discussion as an inquiry into the technological innovation of movable type and the changes produced by that innovation. Moderator should then introduce the members of the panel and guide the questioning. You may want to tell the press corps that everyone must ask at least one question during the conference.

Step 4: Day three

Possible writing assignments:

- Compare and contrast the effects of the Gutenberg Bible during the Renaissance with the present-day effects of the digitalization and the Internet.
- Write one-act plays in which members of the panel discuss their fears and their excitement at the possibilities brought about by the invention of movable type.

Activity by:

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Press Corps Worksheet

Your job is to create pointed questions for either specific members of the panel or the panel as a whole to identify the effects on everyday life made by the invention of movable type and the production of the Gutenberg Bible. You must use the Gutenberg Education Module (<http://www.hrc.utexas.edu/exhibitions/education/modules/gutenberg>) and your textbook, and you may use other resources as well.

Note: In one way or another, religion is extremely important to each of you. (Death is a constant reality, and you're counting on the existence of an afterlife.) Also keep in mind that the Church was the vehicle of education before the Renaissance. Consider how printing and movable type can change access to information.

Panel members include:

scribe	priest	nun	merchant
Johann Gutenberg	Johann Fust	papermaker	noble
middle class woman	peasants	illuminator	

1.) Question: _____

Person(s) to be asked: _____

Why is this question important? _____

Predict the response that you will receive from the individual(s): _____

If your question is answered, what response did you receive? _____

2.) Question: _____

Person(s) to be asked: _____

Why is this question important? _____

Predict the response that you will receive from the individual(s): _____

If your question is answered, what response did you receive? _____

3.) Question: _____

Person(s) to be asked: _____

Why is this question important? _____

Predict the response that you will receive from the individual(s): _____

If your question is answered, what response did you receive? _____

4.) Question: _____

Person(s) to be asked: _____

Why is this question important? _____

Predict the response that you will receive from the individual(s): _____

If your question is answered, what response did you receive? _____

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Panel Member Worksheet

Research your role using the Gutenberg Education Module as well as your textbook.

<http://www.hrc.utexas.edu/exhibitions/education/modules/gutenberg>

You may, of course, use other resources as well. You may receive extra credit for wearing a costume.

Circle your role:

scribe	priest	nun	merchant
Johann Gutenberg	Johann Fust	papermaker	noble
middle class woman	peasants	illuminator	

Note: In one way or another, religion is extremely important to each of you and should be mentioned in most of your answers. (Death is a constant reality, and you're counting on the existence of an afterlife.) Also, keep in mind that the Church was the vehicle of education before the Renaissance. Consider how printing and movable type can change access to information.

Describe what you do during a typical day: _____

What are your biggest concerns during an average day? _____

What personal goals do you have for yourself in terms of marriage, children, money, education, serving God? _____

How will movable type and the printing of the Gutenberg Bible make a difference (or not) in your life? _____

Question you might be asked by the press corps: _____

How you would respond: _____

Question you might be asked by the press corps: _____

How you would respond: _____
