

# Is It an Authentic Gutenberg Bible?

**Subject:** World Cultures, World History

**Grade Level:** 6<sup>th</sup>, adaptable for 10th

## **Rationale or Purpose:**

Students will be able to answer the question “Why is the invention of movable type an important invention?” Students will understand that movable type increased production of the number of books available, helped to promote literacy among many people, and was a compliment to the Renaissance and Reformation.

## **Materials:**

Internet access

Power Point

Chart or butcher paper (for K-W-L chart) or chalk board

Marker

*Detective Handouts #1-4*

*Graphic Organizer Handout*

*Vocabulary List Handout*

## **Objectives: Social Studies 113.22**

(2 A) explain the significance of individuals or groups from selected societies, past and present

(2 B) describe the influence of individual and group achievement on selected historical or contemporary societies

(20 A) give examples of scientific discoveries and technological innovations, including the roles of scientists and inventors that have transcended the boundaries of societies and have shaped the world

(20 B) explain how resources, belief systems, economic factors, and political decisions have affected the use of technology from place to place, culture to culture, and society to society.

## **Objectives: World History 113.33**

(1 B) identify changes that resulted from important turning points in world history such as the development of cities, the European age of exploration and colonization;

(1 C) apply chronology through the sequencing of significant individuals, events, and time periods.

(4 A) identify the causes and characteristics of the European Renaissance and the Reformation eras

(4 B) identify the effects of the European Renaissance and the Reformation era

(23 A) examples of major mathematical and scientific discoveries and technological innovations, describe the changes produced by these discoveries and innovations

**Activity:**

Students will be given roles as research detectives. Their job is to determine what makes the Gutenberg Bible authentic. They will be looking at information on the Ransom Center **Gutenberg Education Module** to determine what a Gutenberg Bible looks like and who might have purchased one. Students will then create a Power Point presentation in support of their findings.

1. Place students in cooperative groups of 4 or 5.
2. Have the students discuss in their groups what they know about Gutenberg and the Gutenberg Bible.
3. Start a class “K-W-L” chart (What I Know, What I Want to Know, What I Learned) by having each group list what they know.
4. Have each group discuss what they might like to learn about the Gutenberg Bible. Add that to the chart.
5. Keep the chart up for the duration of the lesson.
6. Discuss with students the objective. Let them know they will be learning about an invention and why it is important.
7. Hand the group a packet with the 4 jobs listed. Also include a design sheet for either the timeline or the graphic organizer, and the vocabulary list (one per student), and a copy of the rubric (one per group). The timeline should be given to lower level learners; the graphic organizer is designed for upper level learners.
8. Have the group look at the packet. Either assign the roles to students or allow the students to pick their own roles.
9. Have students read the information about their role. Tell them they will need to have paper and pencil in addition to their handouts.
10. Have the students log on to the Ransom Center Gutenberg Education Module.  
<http://www.hrc.utexas.edu/exhibitions/education/modules/gutenberg>
11. Have the students individually complete the timeline or graphic organizer and vocabulary list using the guiding questions to assist them. They may also take additional notes on the paper. There are instructions on each handout for them to follow.
12. Once the entire group has completed their individual activities, have them come together and discuss their findings. Then have the group look at the digitized copy of the Ransom Center Gutenberg Bible.  
<http://www.hrc.utexas.edu/exhibitions/permanent/gutenberg>
13. Finally, have the group create a Power Point of their findings.
14. Once all groups are finished, have the groups present their findings to the class. Allow time once all groups have presented to discuss whether their findings and reasoning were similar.

**Closure:**

Return to the “K-W-L” chart. Review what the groups wanted to learn. Have the groups discuss what they learned and add it to the chart.

**Activity by:**

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## Detective #1 Paper Expert

You are part of a team of research detectives. A rich, anonymous person has hired you. This person is contemplating a purchase of a Gutenberg Bible. Your job is to help determine whether or not the Bible is authentic.

To help determine authenticity, you must do some research. Your area of expertise is researching the paper that Gutenberg might have used.

(1) Research the following topic pages on the **Gutenberg Education Module**:

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The Invention: Papermaking

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

Books Before and After the Gutenberg Bible: Early Writing

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

Books Before and After the Gutenberg Bible: The World Beyond

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

Books Before and After the Gutenberg Bible: Printing Yesterday and Today

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

Use the following questions to assist you in completing your graphic organizer and vocabulary list.

Guiding Questions:

- What materials has paper been made from throughout the years?
  - What materials have been used in different regions of the world?
  - Where did Gutenberg get his paper? How was it made?
  - How has paper changed since the time of Gutenberg?
2. Once your entire group has completed their research, share your information with the group.
  3. Look at the digitized version of the Gutenberg Website on the Ransom Center website:  
<http://www.hrc.utexas.edu/exhibitions/permanent/gutenberg>. Discuss whether you believe this to be an authentic version of a Gutenberg Bible or not based on your research. Be sure to support your reasoning.
  4. With your group, create a Power Point presentation stating your conclusion. Include plenty of support for your position. You will be presenting this information to your peers.

## Detective #2 Printing Press Expert

You are part of a team of research detectives. A rich, anonymous person has hired you. This person is contemplating a purchase of a Gutenberg Bible. Your job is to help determine whether or not the Bible is authentic.

To help determine authenticity, you must do some research. Your area of expertise is researching the printing process that Gutenberg used.

(1) Research the following topic pages on the **Gutenberg Education Module**:

The Invention: Adapting Technology

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

The Invention: Gutenberg's Print Shop

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

Books Before and After the Gutenberg Bible: Books Before Gutenberg

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

Books Before and After the Gutenberg Bible: Printing Yesterday and Today

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

Use the following questions to assist you in completing your graphic organizer and vocabulary list.

Guiding Questions:

- How were books created prior to the printing press?
  - What was involved in the use of the press?
  - What type of ink was used?
  - Who created movable type? Why was that important?
  - How was type changed in the printing press?
  - How has printing changed since the time of Gutenberg?
2. Once your entire group has completed their research, share your information with the group.
  3. Look at the digitized version of the Gutenberg Bible on the Ransom Center website:  
<http://www.hrc.utexas.edu/exhibitions/permanent/gutenberg>. Discuss whether you believe this to be an authentic version of a Gutenberg Bible based on your research. Be sure to support your reasoning.
  4. With your group, create a Power Point presentation stating your conclusion. Include plenty of support for your position. You will be presenting this information to your peers.

## Detective #3 Illumination Expert

You are part of a team of research detectives. A rich, anonymous person has hired you. This person is contemplating a purchase of a Gutenberg Bible. Your job is to help determine whether or not the Bible is authentic.

To help determine this, you must do some research. Your area of expertise is researching illumination and rubrication used in book making.

1. Research the following topic pages on the Gutenberg Education Module:

The Invention: Illuminations and Rubrications

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

Books Before and After the Gutenberg Bible: Books Before Gutenberg

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

Books Before and After the Gutenberg Bible: Gutenberg's Legacy

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

Use the following questions to assist you in completing your graphic organizer and vocabulary list. Guiding Questions:

- What is illumination and rubrication?
  - How was it used before the invention of the printing press?
  - How did Gutenberg maintain the style of illumination and rubrication?
  - How have illustrations adapted since the invention of the press?
2. Once your entire group has completed their research, share your information with the group.
  3. Look at the Ransom Center's digitized version of the Gutenberg Bible at: <http://www.hrc.utexas.edu/exhibitions/permanent/gutenberg>. Discuss whether you believe this to be an authentic version of a Gutenberg Bible based on your research. Be sure to support your reasoning.
  4. With your group, create a Power Point presentation stating your conclusion. Include plenty of support for your position. You will be presenting this information to your peers.

## Detective #4 Consumer Expert

You are part of a team of research detectives. A rich, anonymous person has hired you. This person is contemplating a purchase of a Gutenberg Bible. Your job is to help determine whether or not the Bible is authentic.

To help determine authenticity, you must do some research. Your area of expertise is researching who purchased the Bibles that Gutenberg printed.

1. Research the following topic pages of the Gutenberg Education Module:  
The Invention: Buying the Book

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

The Invention: A Familiar Format

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

Books Before and After the Gutenberg Bible: Books Before Gutenberg

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

Books Before and After the Gutenberg Bible: Gutenberg's Legacy

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

Use the following questions to assist you in completing your graphic organizer and vocabulary list. Guiding Questions:

- Before the invention of the printing press, what main groups of people were reading the books?
  - What types of books were usually read? What language were they usually written in?
  - Who did Gutenberg think would buy his Bibles? Why?
  - Once many people utilized the printing press, what groups of people were reading the books?
  - How many books were available following the use of the press?
2. Once your entire group has completed their research, share your information with the group.
  3. Look at the digitized version of the Gutenberg Website on the Ransom Center website:  
<http://www.hrc.utexas.edu/exhibitions/permanent/gutenberg>. Discuss whether you believe this to be an authentic version of a Gutenberg Bible based on your research. Be sure to support your reasoning.
  4. With your group, create a Power Point presentation stating your conclusion. Include plenty of support for your position. You will be presenting this information to your peers.

**Graphic Organizer:**

Use the graphic organizer to assist you in taking notes on the Gutenberg Education website. Be sure to stay on your research area of focus.

Research Detective # \_\_\_\_\_: Area of focus: \_\_\_\_\_

	The Invention	Books Before and After the Gutenberg Bible
Before the Gutenberg Bible		
During the printing of the Gutenberg Bible		
After the printing of the Gutenberg Bible		

***Vocabulary List:***

In doing your research, you will come across some new vocabulary words. These words will be in bold on the website. Once you come across a word in bold, write the word on the list that follows. Then use the “Glossary” button on the Gutenberg Education website to locate the definition of that word. Follow your teacher’s instructions on how to define the word.

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