

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES

## Johannes Gutenberg

### Before reading

#### 1 Guess

Johannes Gutenberg invented the printing press. How much do you know about the history of books? Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)? If you don't know the answer, guess.

- 1 Before Gutenberg, only poor people read books. T / F
- 2 Before Gutenberg, every book was written by hand. T / F
- 3 Gutenberg's most famous book was the *Gutenberg Bible*. T / F
- 4 Gutenberg became rich during his life. T / F

### While reading

#### 2 Comprehension and writing

Read to the end of page 10. For each question, circle *Yes* or *No* and give a reason.

- 1 Was it easy to read books when Gutenberg was growing up?  
Yes / No  
Reason: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Did he get married?  
Yes / No  
Reason: \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Was his girlfriend angry?  
Yes / No  
Reason: \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Was Gutenberg's new printing system called 'movable type'?  
Yes / No  
Reason: \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Did Gutenberg pay off all of his debts with his calendar and poems?  
Yes / No  
Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 3 Comprehension

Read to the end of the story. Also read the timeline. Put these events in the correct order. Write 1–8 in the spaces.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Gutenberg printed calendars and poems.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Gutenberg got engaged but he never got married.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Gutenberg met Johann Fust.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Gutenberg worked as a goldsmith.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Gutenberg printed the *Gutenberg Bible*.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Gutenberg had lots of competition from other printing companies.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Gutenberg invented 'movable type'.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Fust took Gutenberg to court.

### After reading

#### 4 Language

Complete the collocations with the verbs in the boxes. Use each verb once.

give	pay (off)	break	borrow	get	take
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- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ married
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ (someone) an idea
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ a promise
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ money (from someone)
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ (someone) to court
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ debts

#### 5 Follow-up activity

Write your own sentences using the collocations from activity 4. Remember to put the verbs in an appropriate form. Your sentences can be about the story but you mustn't copy sentences from the story.

#### 6 Research

Find more information about why Gutenberg's invention was so important. Try to find answers to these questions:

- 1 Gutenberg is often referred to as '*the man of the (last) \_\_\_\_\_*'.
- 2 The 'print revolution' is compared with which more modern revolution?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Where is the original *Gutenberg Bible* now?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4 When books were first printed, what type of literature was most popular?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Why was this?  
\_\_\_\_\_

You can find these answers by watching the two videos at this link (taken from the 'Further Research' document):

[www.history.com/videos/the-book-that-changed-the-world#mankind-the-story-of-all-of-us-the-printing-press](http://www.history.com/videos/the-book-that-changed-the-world#mankind-the-story-of-all-of-us-the-printing-press)

**TIP** Remember that you do not need to understand every word of these videos. Try to concentrate on listening for key words. Use the pictures and hand gestures to help you.

## ANSWER KEY (STUDENT ACTIVITIES)

## Johannes Gutenberg

### 1 Guess

- 1 F – only *rich* people could read books because there were not many books available.
- 2 T
- 3 T
- 4 F – Gutenberg was very poor his whole life.

### 2 Comprehension and writing

- 1 No – They were written by hand. The writing was difficult to understand.
- 2 No – He didn't have enough money.
- 3 Yes – He broke his promise.
- 4 Yes – You could move the letters.
- 5 No – He paid off some debts but not all.

### 3 Comprehension

- 1 Gutenberg worked as a goldsmith.
- 2 Gutenberg got engaged but he never got married.
- 3 Gutenberg invented 'movable type'.
- 4 Gutenberg printed calendars and poems.
- 5 Gutenberg met Johann Fust.
- 6 Fust took Gutenberg to court.
- 7 Gutenberg printed the *Gutenberg Bible*.
- 8 Gutenberg had lots of competition from other printing companies.

### 4 Language

- 1 get
- 2 give
- 3 break
- 4 borrow
- 5 take
- 6 pay (off) – 'off' is in brackets because 'pay debts' is also good English.

### 5 Follow-up activity

*Answers will vary.*

### 6 Research

*Answers will vary.* Suggested answers:

- 1 Gutenberg is often referred to as 'the man of the (last) millennium'.
- 2 The 'print revolution' is compared with the internet revolution.
- 3 The Library of Congress (Washington D.C., USA)
- 4 Books about travel ('travel literature') were most popular.
- 5 People couldn't travel easily so they liked to read about the world.