

# Adventurers - Hot Off the Press!



## Overview

"Hot off the Press!" is a thematic unit that takes a journey through print history, with a focus on comics and cartoons, and later exploring animation. It takes in elements of history, art, and computing, starting with the origins of print, Gutenberg's contributions, and early printers, before moving onto typefaces and cartoon prints. The animation part of the unit gives pupils an opportunity to share their design ideas and create their own animated films.

## Printroduction

Today, even with the development of online newspapers, magazines and advertising, our world is still full of printed materials. We still send greetings cards on special occasions, read printed books and are given leaflets advertising all kinds of things regularly! Printed materials have always had a purpose.

It is believed that printing first began in China during the T'ang Dynasty when ink was spread onto carved wooden blocks and pressed onto paper repeatedly. This is what printing means - to make multiple copies of the same image or text. This kind of printing is called woodblock printing.

## Johannes Gutenberg

Johannes Gutenberg was born in Mainz, Germany at the end of the 14th century. He is known for inventing the moveable type printing press. His invention changed the world of printing! Before Gutenberg's invention, books were often written by hand or large carved wooden blocks of each page were made. These blocks were only usable for that particular book. Gutenberg invented a printing machine that used metal letters that could be moved around in a 'composing stick' to make words and, therefore, could be used again and again to print different pages quickly and efficiently.

He used his printing press to print Bibles so more people could own a copy. He then printed Bibles in different languages so people could read the Bible in a language they knew and understood, rather than just in Latin.

## Typos

As printing became more popular, different kinds of letter styles were invented. When all the letters and characters are produced in a particular style, this is called a font or a typeface. Typography is the term to describe arranging typefaces to make written work easy to read and look attractive. Some fonts have serifs and some don't (sans serif). Serifs are the little flicks on the end of letters to mimic handwriting.

Font styles and printing have developed together and as soon as the typewriter then the word processor (and computer keyboard!) were invented, we have been able to speed up writing and printing considerably.

## Comics and animation

Printed material is not always about documents, books and newspapers. Printing has also allowed images to be reproduced and one of the most popular forms of printed images is the comic strip. Often comic strips and their characters first appeared in newspapers and magazines, but some have always been produced in the form of comic books. The Beano and The Dandy are two very famous comic books. The Beano began in 1938 and the characters Dennis the Menace, Minnie the Minx and Roger the Dodger are now famous in their own right.

Today some comic book characters, such as the Avengers and the Marvel Action characters are better-known for appearing in films and TV series' but they all started out as drawn and printed characters. Captain America made his first comic strip appearance in 1941!

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## Vocabulary

<b>2D Animation</b>	lots of pictures of a character, which form a moving figure in a flattened space when they are all put together
<b>3D animation</b>	on a computer, where a character is created and made to move in a dimensional world that feels more real
<b>Cartoon</b>	a film using animation techniques to photograph a sequence of drawings rather than real people or objects
<b>Chromatography</b>	a technique used to separate mixtures. Paper chromatography is used to separate coloured mixtures like ink.
<b>Comic</b>	a book or magazine that contains a series of cartoons that tell a story.
<b>Font</b>	a complete set of type, all of the same size and style.
<b>Moveable type printing</b>	a type of printing that uses individual letters and characters to make words. They are inked and then printed. The letters can be moved to make new words and pages.
<b>Stop-motion</b>	animation that is captured one frame at a time, with physical objects that are moved between frames
<b>Wooden block printing</b>	a block of wood is carved with the reverse image that will be printed. It is inked and then pressed onto paper. It can't be changed once it has been carved.

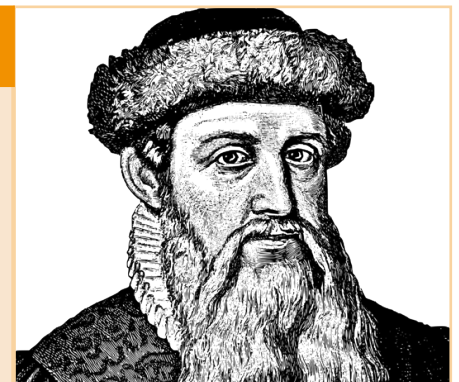


Comic Sans MS  
Consolas  
Constantia  
**Cooper Black**  
COPPERPLATE



## Concept Flow

- To know how people reproduced images and text in the past
- To know who Johannes Gutenberg was and how his invention of the printing press changed how printed documents were produced
- To know about different typography and fonts
- To know that comics are a popular form of printed media
- To know about the development of the Beano and some of its characters



## My Notes / Questions