

**Johannes Gutenberg**

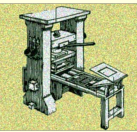
Perfected the Printing Press  
Germany, 1450

Johannes Gutenberg lived in Germany. He came from an aristocratic family, but he wanted to be an inventor.

Today, Gutenberg is widely regarded as the most influential person of the Millennium (1000-2000 A.D.) because he invented the printing press.

Gutenberg's Printing Press

After 1450, the world changed almost overnight . . .



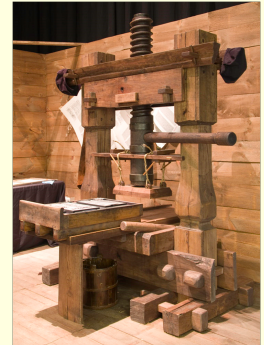
1. The very first book Gutenberg printed was the Bible. The Bible was translated into the vernacular (local language) of the common folks.

2. Folks learned to read. Before the printing press, only those who read Latin could read the Bible. Now that the Bible was available, people wanted to read it.

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3. Martin Luther – the man who launched the Protestant Reformation – told people to read the Bible. He argued that certain practices of the Catholic Church were not even in the Bible. About half of Europe read the Bible and agreed. They became Protestant. (More about Martin Luther later . . .)

4. MASS COMMUNICATION! By 1500, there were 1,000 printing presses in Europe. This invention sped up the spread of ideas of the Renaissance and the Scientific Revolution.

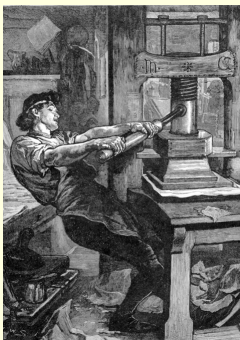


**PREDICT:** Before the printing press, how long did it take for one monk to hand-copy a Bible?

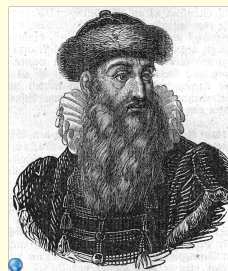
- A) six months
- B) one year**
- C) seven years

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B) Before the printing press, it took 1 year for one monk to hand-copy the Bible. And THAT was the only way to produce a copy!



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Bill Nye the Science Guy

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## Attachments

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Printing Press Video.asf