

# KS2 History Lesson Plan



## Why is the printing press such an important invention? And what is copyright?

### Learning objectives

- To be able to describe what a printing press does.
- To reach a judgement over which of the consequences of the printing press' invention was most important.
- To be able to explain what copyright is and why it is important.

### Study skills

- Pupils will address and devise historically valid questions about change, cause and significance.
- They will construct informed responses that involve thoughtful selection and organisation of relevant historical information(NC Objectives).

### Learning outcomes

- All pupils will be able to explain what a printing press is and outline some of the consequences of its invention.
- All pupils will be able to explain how and why copyright protection exists.

### Resources required

- Lesson Presentation
- Copyright Resource Sheet

## Introduction

Starter: Using the **Lesson Presentation**, display the image on slide 1 of the 15th century printing press. Explain that this invention changed the world and ask the pupils to try and guess what it could be. Take answers from the class and then explain that it is called the printing press and introduce the lesson. Then share the learning objectives on slide 2.

## Main activities

Split the class into groups or teams. Some with stamps and ink and some with pens and pencils. Give them a set time to see who can make the most. This task can be adapted depending on the tools and materials that you have available. It could involve a date stamp such as those used by librarians or potato stamps and poster paints. Either way, it will illustrate how printing is significantly quicker than writing by hand in a way that is fun and involves competition. Please amend slide 3 accordingly.

Use slides 4 and 5 to explain how all books were written by hand until the 1400s and Gutenberg's invention and explain how the printing press works. Use slides 6 and 7 to explain that its invention had many consequences and explore the meaning of the word consequence.

Hand out the **Copyright Resource Sheet** and ask the pupils to carefully read the five consequences of the invention of the printing press. Ask them to work in pairs to number the consequences in order of importance and to explain their choice of order. Share choices and discuss as a class.

Use slides 9 and 10 to explore the reason for Daniel Defoe's frustration by examining the quote. Outline the 1710 Copyright Act using slide 11.

## Plenary

Explain that although copyright law still exists, it has expanded to include all sorts of creations other than books. Have a class discussion about what these creations might be and illicit responses such as films, songs, video games, etc. Set the pupils the task of explaining why it is important that these creators of these things are protected from having them copied or 'stolen'.

## Useful resources

This [CLA video](#) nicely summarises the history of copyright (and therefore the printing press), and this [video](#) contains a true or false quiz to help assess understanding. It could make a good alternative plenary too.

## Extension activities / home learning

Students could explore famous copyright cases from history. You could set some pupils cases that were music based (Bowie/Queen and Vanilla Ice), others on fashion (Gucci and Guess), others on toys (Bratz and Barbie), etc.