



Student/Classroom: _____ Examiner: _____ Assessment Date: _____

The Printing Press 607

The Six-Minute Solution, Sopris West

Imagine having to copy an entire book by hand. That's what people had to **(do)** before the printing press was invented. **(Books)** sometimes took years to copy. They **(were)** very rare and extremely expensive. Monks **(spent)** their entire lives just making one **(copy)** of the Bible.

In the early **(fifteenth)** century, a German named Johann Gutenberg **(had)** a wonderful idea. He thought of **(a)** way to print books instead of **(copying)** them by hand. Gutenberg took small **(blocks)** of wood and made them all **(the)** same size. He then took each **(block)** of wood and carved one letter **(of)** the alphabet on it. When Gutenberg **(wanted)** to print a word, he would **(line)** up the blocks with the letters **(that)** would spell that word. He would **(spread)** ink on each of the letters **(and)** then press down on a piece **(of)** parchment paper. He could use the **(same)** alphabet letter blocks over and over **(again)**, as he strung out the blocks **(together)** to make words. This method still **(took)** a great deal of time, but **(then)** Gutenberg thought of a way to **(design)** a machine that would print an **(entire)** page at one time.

Gutenberg invented **(that)** printing machine, called the printing press, **(in)** 1448. He printed three hundred Bibles in **(Latin)**, the language of the church at **(that)** time. Forty of those 300 Bibles still **(exist)** today. They are called the Gutenberg **(Bibles)**, and they are worth millions and **(millions)** of dollars. The next time you **(pick)** up a book to read, imagine **(how)** long it would take to print **(just)** one page if you had to **(line)** up blocks of wood letters before **(it)** could be printed.



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Imagine having to copy an entire book by hand. That's what people had to **(do, three, to)** before the printing press was invented. **(Books, Strung, Those)** sometimes took years to copy. They **(each, were, if)** very rare and extremely expensive. Monks **(way, spent, by)** their entire lives just making one **(monks, size, copy)** of the Bible.

In the early **(be, deal, fifteenth)** century, a German named Johann Gutenberg **(design, same, had)** a wonderful idea. He thought of **(bible, church, a)** way to print books instead of **(made, copying, print)** them by hand. Gutenberg took small **(blocks, thought, press)** of wood and made them all **(that, it, the)** same size. He then took each **(spread, spent, block)** of wood and carved one letter **(letters, but, of)** the alphabet on it. When Gutenberg **(small, wanted, copying)** to print a word, he would **(in, invented, line)** up the blocks with the letters **(just, took, that)** would spell that word. He would **(instead, spread, word)** ink on each of the letters **(when, and, alphabet)** then press down on a piece **(he, dollars, of)** parchment paper. He could use the **(piece, same, of)** alphabet letter blocks over and over **(again, bibles, on)**, as he strung out the blocks **(he, what, together)** to make words. This method still **(how, took, pick)** a great deal of time, but **(entire, worth, then)** Gutenberg thought of a way to **(design, you, up)** a machine that would print an **(a, parchment, entire)** page at one time.

Gutenberg invented **(ink, that, again)** printing machine, called the printing press, **(in, hundred, they)** 1448. He printed three hundred Bibles in **(having, at, Latin)**, the language of the church at **(people, page, that)** time. Forty of those 300 Bibles still **(early, wood, exist)** today. They are called the Gutenberg **(books, years, Bibles)**, and they are worth millions and **(extremely, this, millions)** of dollars. The next time you **(their, johann, pick)** up a book to read, imagine **(hand, was, how)** long it would take to print **(just, today, one)** one page if you had to **(line, method, do)** up blocks of wood letters before **(it, take, with)** could be printed.