

Kids page BOOK

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Start the presses

With all the books and magazines we have available today, it's hard to imagine that centuries ago everything you read had to be copied by hand. Only the very wealthy could afford books because it could take someone months or even years to make a copy.

The Chinese used woodblock printing beginning about 1,400 years ago. This was a good step toward producing more pages, but it still meant a whole page of print had to be carved on a block of wood. A Chinese printer also developed a form of printing with movable type about 1,000 years ago.

But it was Johannes Gutenberg who invented the system of movable type that led to today's printing presses. Gutenberg came out with his invention around A.D. 1450, about 50 years before Columbus first sailed to America.

Do you know what big printing project Gutenberg tackled first? The Bible. Gutenberg printed the Bible so well that 48 of his 180 copies are still around today, more than 500 years later.

But here is something even more amazing. The Bible has survived, and been printed billions of times, even though its oldest stories were first written down about 3,500 years ago.

The Bible is God's Word. That means God made it possible for all of the Bible's stories and psalms and prophecies to be written down. God protected His Word throughout history so you could read it today.

And when you read your Bible, God uses its truth to do amazing things in your life.

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path"
(Psalm 119:105, NIV).



Gutenberg Bible

Try this!

Make an international John 3:16 poster

You can visit www.everytongue.com/john/index.htm to see a list of translations of John 3:16 into languages from around the world. Try copying some of the translations onto a poster and coloring your artwork. Some of the translations use letters with interesting shapes. See if you can use those letters to make a design around the edge of your poster.

Did you know?

When the Apollo 8 astronauts orbited the moon on Christmas Eve 1968, they read the first 10 verses in the Bible during a television broadcast that reached a worldwide audience.



By the numbers

- **6,912:** Languages in the world
- **4,661:** Languages with at least some of the Bible translated
- **2,251:** Languages without any of the Bible translated
- **193 million:** People who speak those 2,251 languages

— Wycliffe Bible Translators (2007 statistics)



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