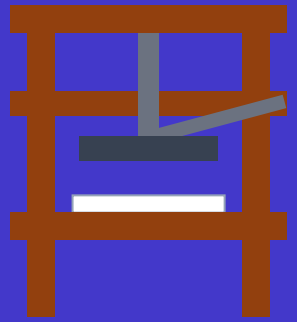


Who was William Caxton?



What was the printing press?



History · Year 1/2 · Communication

Today we are learning...

Who was William Caxton, and what was the printing press?

Year 1

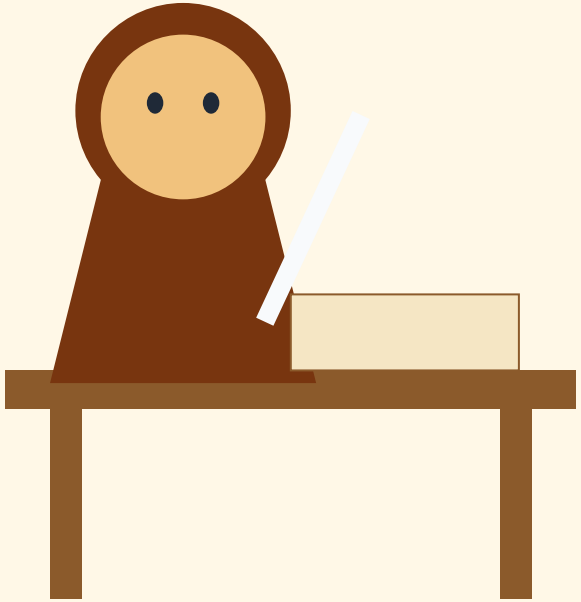
I can say who William Caxton was.
I can spot a printing press.

Year 2

I can describe how a printing press makes copies of writing more quickly than writing each book by hand.

Long, long ago...

- ★ Long ago, there were no machines to make books.
- ★ Every book was written out by hand, with a feather pen called a quill.
- ★ Copying one book could take months!

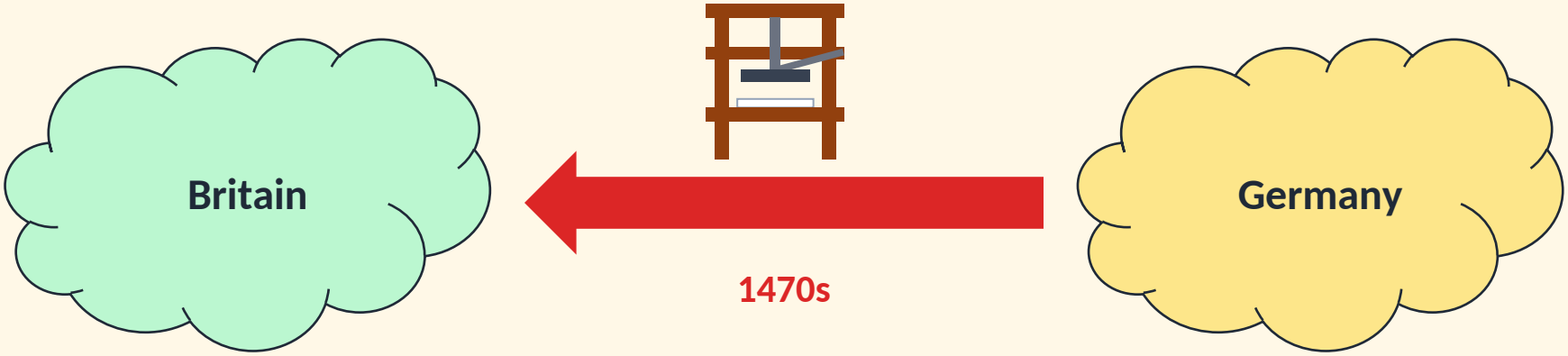


Meet William Caxton



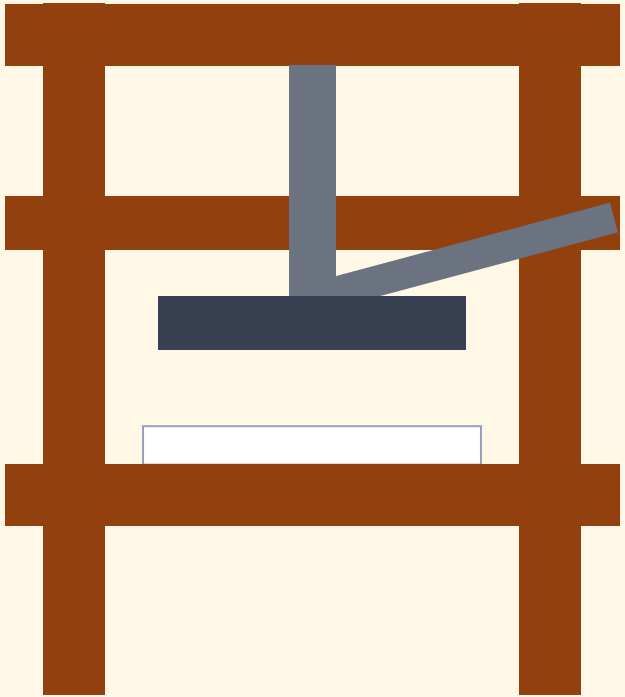
- ★ William Caxton was born in Kent, England, about 600 years ago.
- ★ He was a merchant. He bought and sold cloth.
- ★ He travelled a lot for his work and lived in other countries.
- ★ He LOVED books!

Caxton's big idea



1. In Germany, Caxton saw a printing press.
2. He realised it could make books much more quickly!
3. He learned how to print, then brought a printing press to Britain in the 1470s.

What is a printing press?



A printing press is a machine that prints words onto paper.

- ★ It is made of wood and metal.
- ★ It has a big handle to pull.
- ★ It presses inky letters onto paper.

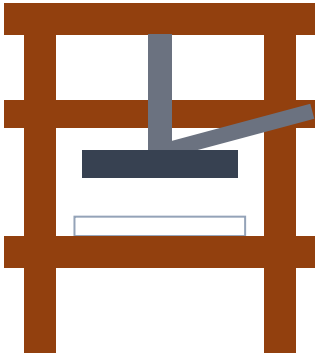
How does a printing press work?



1. Put metal letters in a printing block



2. Cover the letters in ink



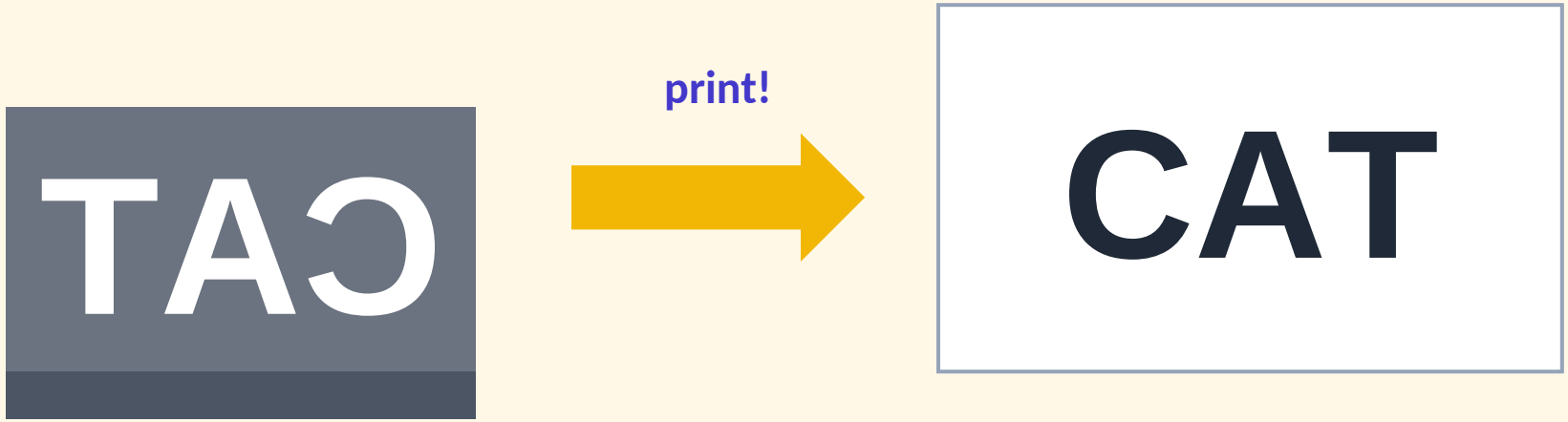
3. Lay paper on top and pull the handle



4. A printed page! Do it again and again

The same letters can print hundreds of copies!

Why are the letters back to front?



The letters on the block are BACK TO FRONT. When they are pressed onto paper, they come out the right way round, like a mirror!

Video time!



Caxton & the invention of printing

Click the title to open the video

Watch and spot...

- William Caxton
- the printing press
- metal letters
- printed pages

Demonstration: writing vs printing!



Writer

Write "I love books" 5 times by hand.





Printer

Stamp the printing block 5 times.



Ready, steady, GO! Who finishes first?

Activity: print a repeating pattern!

1. Press your printing block into the paint.
2. Press it onto your paper, then lift it straight up.
3. Do it again and again to make a pattern!
4. Count how many copies you made.



Challenge: print your initial! Remember to make it back to front!

Our key words

William Caxton
brought the printing press to Britain

printing press
a machine that prints words onto paper

printing block
holds the letters or picture that you print

past
things that have already happened

What have we learned?

Year 1: William Caxton brought the printing press to Britain.

Year 2: William Caxton introduced the printing press to Britain. It makes copies of writing more quickly than writing by hand.

Say it to your partner, then say our chant: Communication means sharing information!

Teacher page: lesson plan (about 50 mins)

Time	Section	Slides
0–4	Title, chant, Year 1 / Year 2 goals	1–2
4–10	Books long ago; meet William Caxton	3–4
10–17	Caxton's big idea; what a printing press is	5–6
17–23	How a press works; letters back to front	7–8
23–27	Video (preview first)	9
27–33	Demonstration: writing vs printing race	10
33–46	Activity: print a repeating pattern	11
46–50	Key words and plenary	12–13

Resources: a printing block for the demo · potatoes, sponges or foam shapes, paint, paper, aprons · a mirror (optional) · timer.
Facts: Caxton was born about 1422 in Kent; he was a cloth merchant who lived in Bruges; he learned printing in Cologne, Germany; he set up England's first press at Westminster in 1476. Gutenberg invented the press in Germany around 1440. No genuine portrait of Caxton survives.