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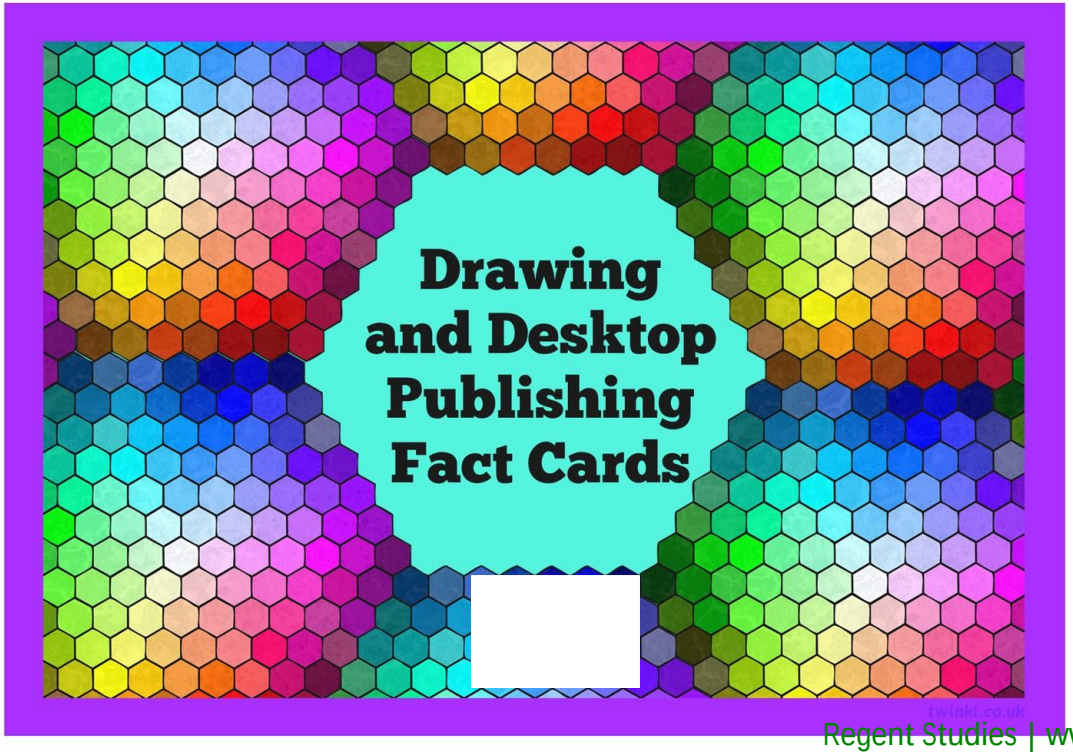
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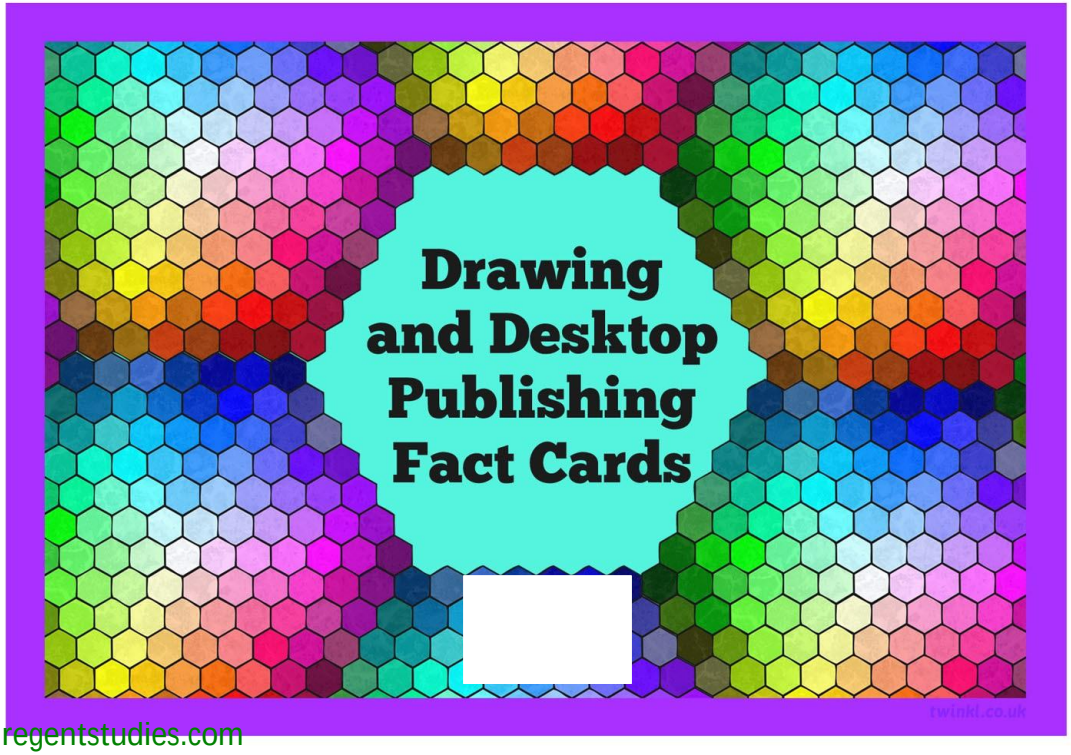
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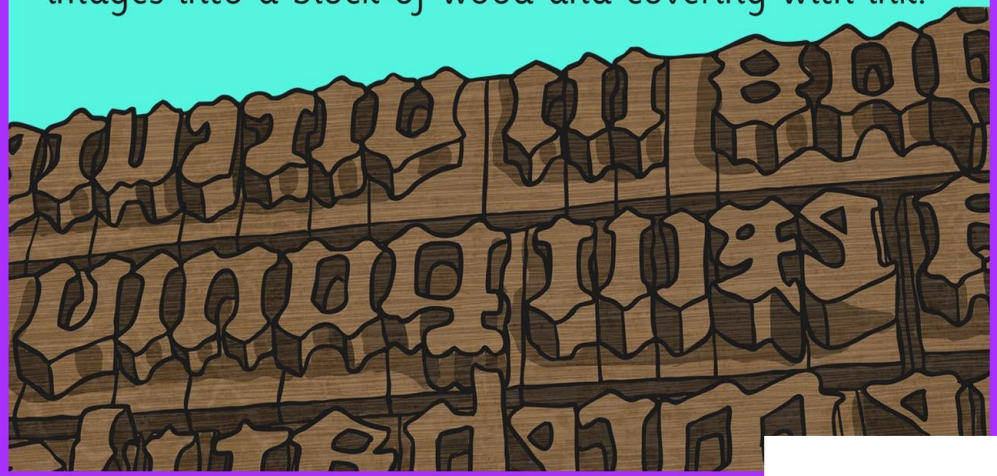
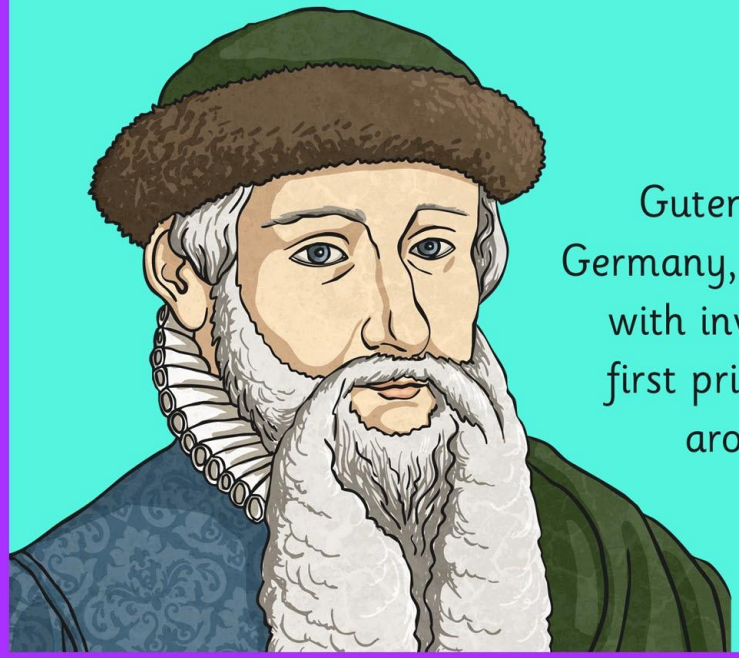
Originally, making lots of copies of a text was achieved with woodcuts. This was literally carving images into a block of wood and covering with ink.

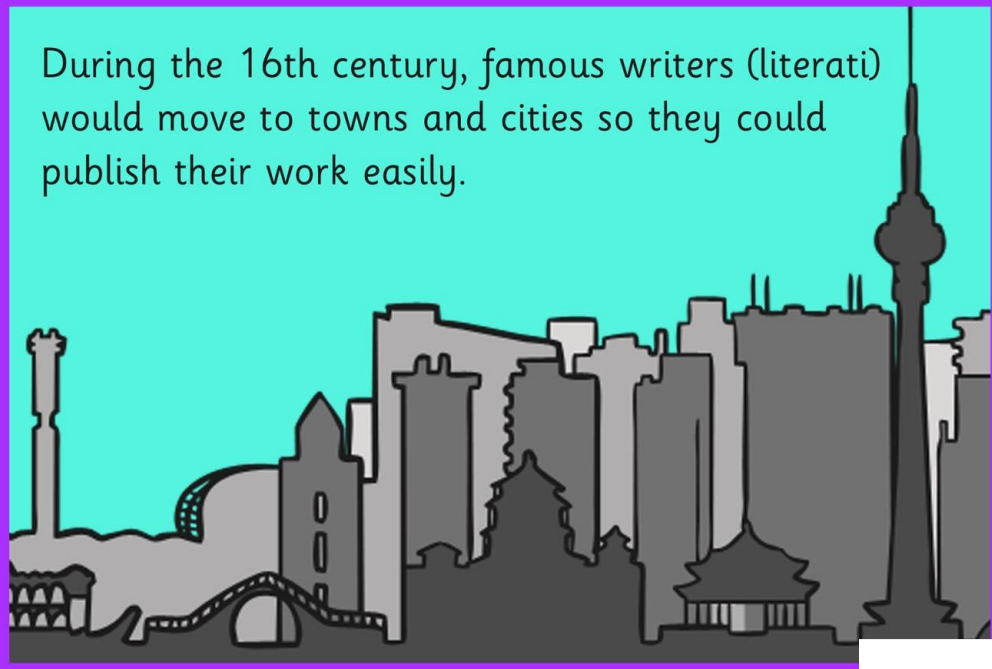


The first examples of using moveable type come from China around the year 1040.

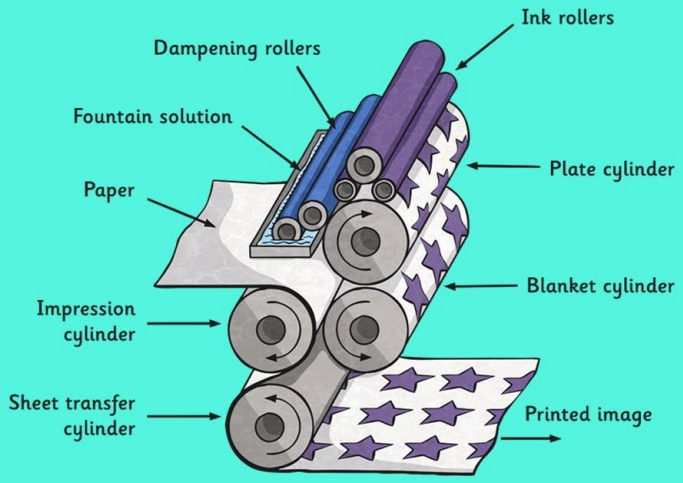


Johannes Gutenberg, from Germany, is credited with inventing the first printing press around 1439.

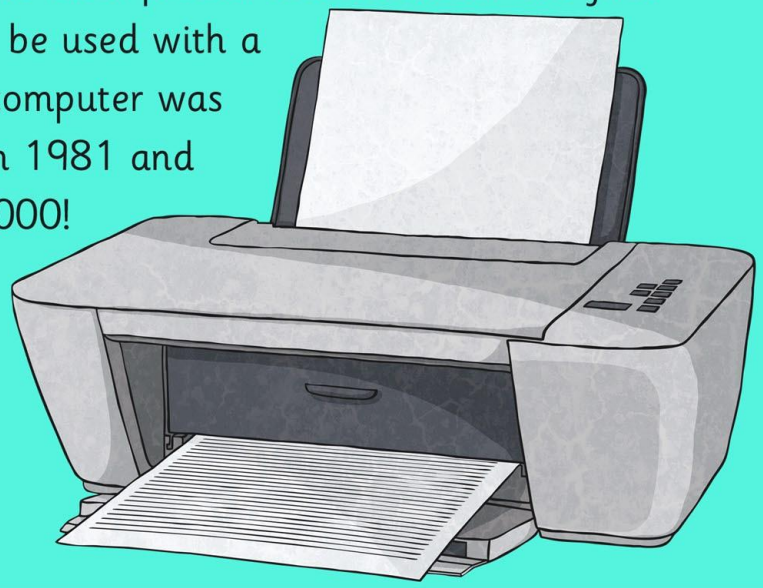
During the 16th century, famous writers (literati) would move to towns and cities so they could publish their work easily.



By the 18th century, a process called lithography had been produced. This uses chemicals to help mass-produce images – a technique still used to day for things like maps and posters, as well as books!



In 1969 the laser printer was invented. The first version to be used with a personal computer was released in 1981 and cost $17 000!



1985 saw the first desktop publishing software released. It was called PageMaker and made by Apple.

Desktop publishing software is used in lots of different types of work, including making newspapers and creating adverts.