

PRINTING PIONEER JOHANNES GUTENBERG

For questions 1-8, read the text below and think of the word which fits each gap.
Use only one word in each gap.

Before Gutenberg (1394 – 1468), all books had to be copied by hand. The so-called ‘manuscripts’ of medieval times were laboriously hand-written, usually by monks (1) ___ devoted years (2) ___ the work. Earlier attempts had been made to produce printing ‘blocks’. The designs on playing cards (3) ___ example were carved from wooden blocks which were inked and then printed onto cards. There are even examples of whole pages in books being hand carved and printed. Gutenberg however came up with the idea of printing using, not whole page blocks, but letter blocks. (4) ___ he was a goldsmith (5) ___ trade, he knew how to mould metal into whatever shape was needed. He made thousands of tiny blocks of ‘type’, (6) ___ with a letter raised on it, which could be lined up and clamped into position in a ‘forme’ (page block). The type could be linked, paper laid on top, and the whole thing compressed by turning a handle. When released, the paper had the page printed on it. Years of work went into this invention. Gutenberg (7) ___ to make the letters, develop an ink which would cling to metal (most didn’t), build the forme, and above (8) ___ find the money to do all this while not working as a goldsmith.

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2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____