

- 1/MODERATOR:** Welcome to "This is Your Story," the exciting show where the spotlight shines on the lives of famous and influential persons. We have returned to the year 1457. Today, we will feature JOHANN GUTENBERG.
- 2/GUTENBERG:** Oh, I can't believe this! Will my story actually be told on this show?
- 1/MODERATOR:** Yes, it will! You have changed the world. Your invention of moveable type has made books and education available to all men.
- 2/GUTENBERG:** The printing of maps was important also.
- 1/MODERATOR:** Indeed it was! Your printing of maps opened the world to a new wave of exploration. Try to identify these voices from the past.
- 3/MONK:** Just a few years ago, I was copying books in a monastery. All books were handwritten on animal skins. It took me weeks to make one copy of one book.
- 2/GUTENBERG:** That is a monk who worked as a scribe. The books they copied were rare and expensive. After copying the books, they added illustrations. Their work was magnificent.
- 1/MODERATOR:** The books were beautiful, and so valuable they were often chained in the churches or the libraries.
- 2/GUTENBERG:** After my invention of moveable print, a printer could produce in one day the same number of copies a scribe could do in a year.

**3/MONK:** Other people were experimenting with wood or stone blocks to print books. They would hand cut the letters or drawings into wood or stone.

**1/MODERATOR:** Was that an improvement over the handwritten books?

**3/MONK:** The woodcuts allowed you to ink and print the same thing repeatedly. With the woodcuts, you could not alter the page once it had been cut.

**1/MODERATOR:** Your invention put some scribes out of work, but it did a lot of good. Listen again.

**4/FATHER:** I was Master of the Mint. As a goldsmith, I stamped letters and figures on coins.

**2/GUTENBERG:** That is my father. I also became a goldsmith, and was a member of the goldsmiths' guild.

**4/FATHER:** Watching the stamping of coins gave Johann his idea for moveable type. As a metalworker, he tried to cut letters on individual blocks of metal.

**1/MODERATOR:** You mean that each letter was cut individually?

**4/FATHER:** That's why my son's invention was unique. With casts of each letter, you could arrange the letters in a sequence to write one page, then move the letters and make different words.