

Evolution Of The Book

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The Road towards the Printed Book...

3500 BC

Symbols onto Tablets

Sumerians within Southern Mesopotamia region were the first to transcribe symbols into moveable material; Such as clay tablets, metal and leather and bone

Papyrus Scrolls

Oldest Evidence of Papyrus Scrolls remain from 2400 BC. During this time Papyrus was the most common writing surface throughout the Mediterranean and was used by the Greeks and Romans. Many ancient civilizations housed their scrolls in large libraries, which acted as both repositories of knowledge and displays of political and economic power such as The Library of Alexandria.

600 BC

Development of a Standardized Writing System

Around this time, general consensus between countries led to a more developed and systematic writing system around the Mediterranean. This system favored the use of right to left script found traditionally in European Countries

Parchment

Parchment was made from treated animal skins that were scraped thin to create a flexible, even surface. Parchment had several advantages over papyrus: It was more durable, both sides could be written on, and its trade wasn't monopolized by the Egyptians. Romans began sewing folded sheets of papyrus or parchment together, and binding them between wooden covers. This form, called the codex, has essentially the same structure as today's books.

2400 BC

The Paper Revolution

Paper was invented in China and was quickly caught on as a writing medium. Traditionally made from plant pulp and water, paper was the cheaper and more efficient alternative to parchment

illuminated Manuscripts

Book culture in the Middle Ages was dominated by monasteries, which became centers of intellectual life. The largest monasteries had rooms called scriptoria where monks copied, decorated, and preserved both religious and secular volumes. These were illuminated manuscripts that included painted embellishments that were added on to the handwritten books.

500 BC

105 AD

868 AD

The First Printed Book

The next major innovation in the history of books, the use of block printing on paper, began in China around 700 CE. The earliest example of a printed book is a Buddhist text called the *Diamond Sutra*.

The Woodblock printing process involved carving an entire page of text onto a wooden block, then inking and pressing the block to print a page.

The Movable Type

1239

The Movable Type consisted of individual letters carved into wood blocks that could be assembled into various words to create a book, without needing to carve pages on wood individually.

1448

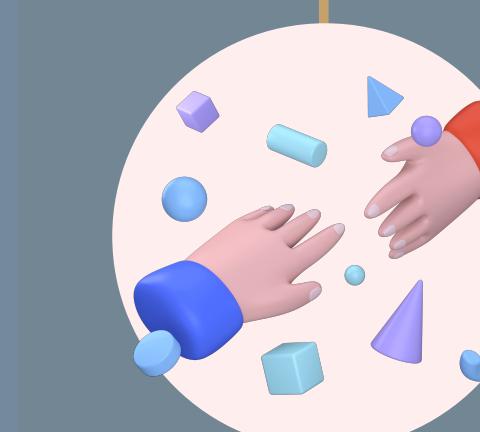
The Gutenberg Type

Johannes Gutenberg's invented the mechanical movable type in 1448. Through his invention, Gutenberg indisputably changed the world. Opening a new way to produce and create books, easily and efficiently



Circularity of Thought

Thoughts are spoken and are spoken again and again, There is no linear evolution of thought.



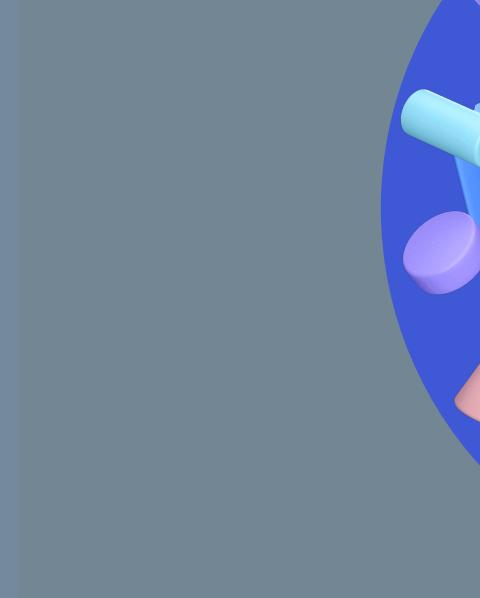
Tradition

Culture is built on Memory+Tradition that has been passed on successfully

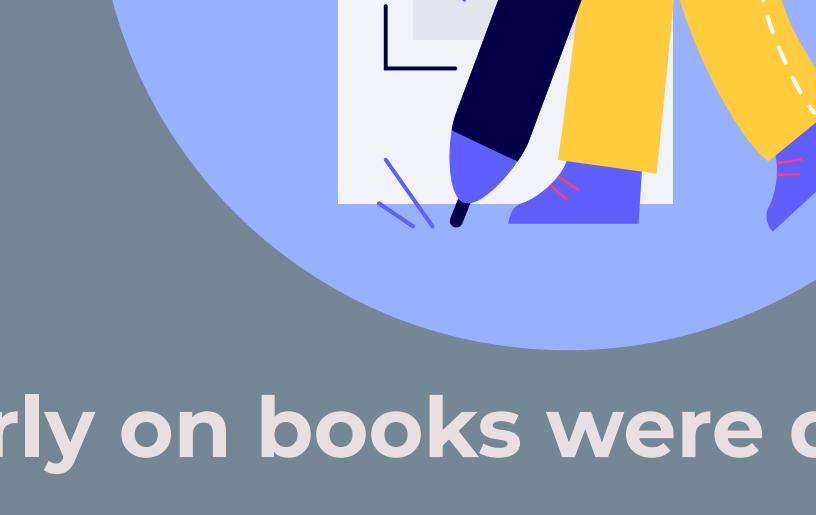


Co-Presence

Members of society are present and close to those around them



Pre-Printing Press Early History



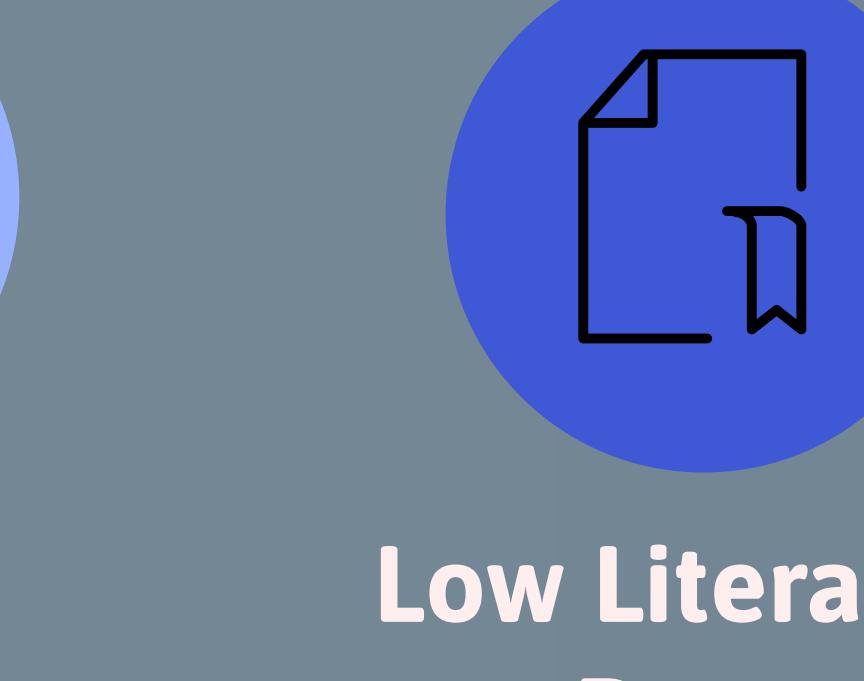
Books were deemed incomprehensibly valuable and were passed down by generations



Usually commissioned by institutions holding power in a given society (Churches, kings, nobility)



Early on books were drawn and written by hand in a series by essential individuals in society, named scribes- Those trained to be able to read and write down by generations



Texts were either culturally significant or would either contain the laws or religious passages of society

How Did this Affect Society?



Governance

Politics and Governance was completely separated from the public sphere.



News

News within a public sphere was based on word of mouth;



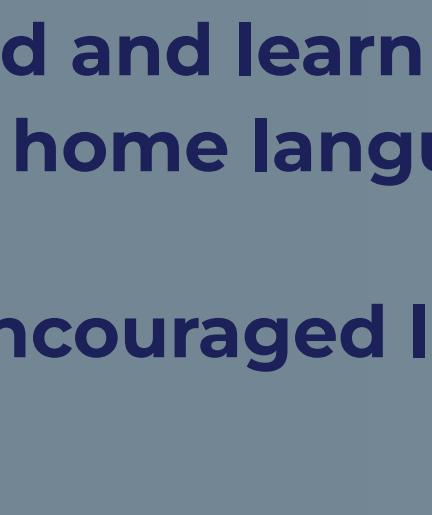
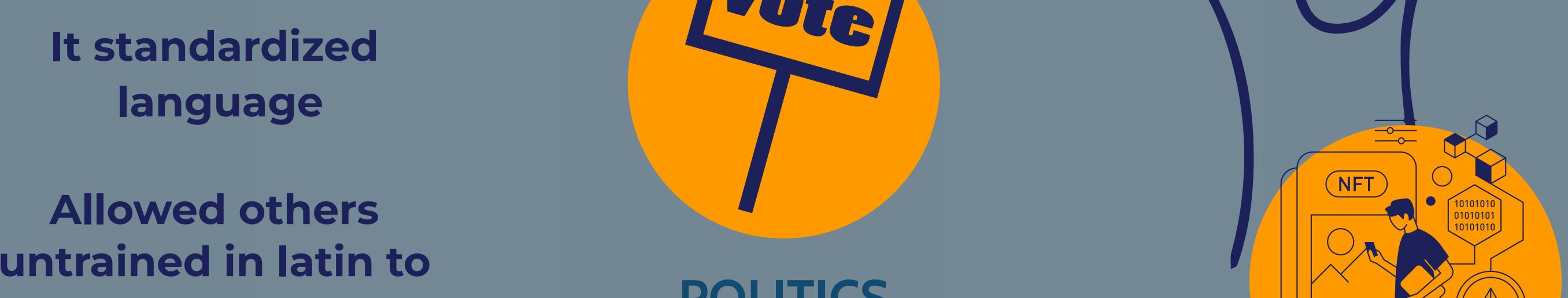
Low Literacy Rate

Only the rich were able to read and write.



Monarchy

The Gutenberg Type



LITERACY

It standardized language

Allowed others untrained in latin to read and learn in their home language

Encouraged literacy

POLITICS

Allowed politics to become part of the Public Sphere; "The Rise of the Middle Class"

Injustice and Unfair Systems were Challenged

Ex: The Protestant Reformation; The French Revolution; The American Revolution

CULTURE

Reading for leisure

Growth of the literary market



PUBLIC SPHERE

Encouraged Democracy

Allowed more people to have more access to information

Challenged Authority



SCIENCE+RESEARCH

Standardized research work

Wider spread of results and acknowledgment

CULTURE

Reading for leisure

Growth of the literary market