

# Year 6 – Books Through Time: *Were Books More Valuable in the Past?*



## Timeline

3500BC	2400BC	600BC	500-200BC	105AD	868AD	1455 AD	1933	1995	2014 and beyond
Sumerians are believed to be the first people to ever use a written system (symbols on tablets).	Papyrus scrolls originated in Egypt.	The standardised writing system was developed.	Parchment was developed as a substitute for papyrus.	The process of papermaking was developed and the paper revolution began.	The first printed book was created using block printing.	The Gutenberg Bible was printed.	Books were burned under the Nazi regime.	Amazon was launched and books were sold online.	E-books were produced and sites such as Audible offer 1000s of audiobooks.

## Key Vocabulary

<b>symbols</b>	A symbol is a sign, shape, or object that is used to represent something else
<b>artefact</b>	An artefact is a man-made object, such as pieces of art or tools, that is of historical interest.
<b>tablet</b>	A tablet is a flat slab of stone, clay, or wood, used especially for engraving.
<b>papyrus</b>	Papyrus is a kind of paper that was used in Ancient Egypt for writing. It was made from a kind of reed called <i>Cyperus papyrus</i> .
<b>parchment</b>	Parchment is the skin of a sheep, goat or calf prepared for writing on.
<b>illustration</b>	An illustration in a book is a picture, design, or diagram.
<b>block printing</b>	Printing from hand engraved or carved blocks of wood.
<b>chronological</b>	If things are described or shown in chronological order, they are described or shown in the order in which they happened.
<b>revolution</b>	A revolution in a particular area of human activity is an important change in that area.
<b>paperback</b>	A paperback is a book with a thin cardboard or paper cover.
<b>e-book</b>	E-book is an abbreviation for 'electronic book'.
<b>audible</b>	Something that can be heard. The world's largest producer of audiobooks.



### Did you know?

Thought to be the oldest multi-page book in the world, dating to about 660 BC, the Etruscan Gold Book was discovered 70 years ago whilst digging a canal in Bulgaria. The book is made from 6 sheets of 24 carat gold, bound together with rings.

### Where did the evolution of books begin?

Long before books were produced as they are today, different civilizations in early history were creating symbols and recording them onto materials such as tablets made from stone or clay, papyrus and parchment. In 3500BC, the Sumerians (a very early civilization) devised an alphabet made up of symbols. They then etched these symbols into clay tablets which were later fired in a kiln.

### Books in the ancient world

The earliest surviving Papyrus scrolls that contain written words date back to around 2400BC, originating in Egypt. Egyptians used this material for hundreds of years before the Greeks and Romans adopted the technique.



The Gutenberg Print Press



Symbols on tablets



Egyptian Papyrus

### Has the value of books changed throughout history?

Before the invention of mechanical printing, books were handmade objects, treasured as works of art and as symbols of enduring knowledge. In the Middle Ages books were sacred, decorated with illustrations, jewels and ivory carvings. They were extremely valuable items and became a status symbol of the day.