Nancy Willard’s *Gutenberg’s Gift*
Word Find

Buddhist  Hand-press  Jikji
Chase  Quoins
Composing stick  Type cabinets  Type mold
Diamond Sutra  Gutenberg
The History of Printing in Five Dates

868
The earliest surviving printed book is a copy of the *Diamond Sutra* (a Buddhist religious text) from 868. This book was printed using hand-carved wood blocks in China.

1377
The date of the earliest surviving book printed in moveable metal type: *Jikji*, a religious book, was published in Heungdeok Temple in Korea.

1455
Johannes Gutenberg invented the wooden printing press and created moveable metal type to print his Bible in the city of Mainz.

1803
Invention of the iron hand-press by the Earl of Stanhope in England.

1814
Invention of the steam-powered cylinder printing press by Friedrich Konig and Andreas Bauer. It was used to print the newspaper *The Times* of London.
Printing Tools

Type Case

These are type cases. Individual pieces of metal type (called “sorts”) are stored in each section of the shallow wooden case. The cases are shelved in wooden cabinets called “type cabinets.”

Composing Stick

A tool used by printers to help organize type sorts in a line. Composing sticks were first made of wood and then later made of metal.


**Type Mold**

Hot liquid type metal was poured into the mold to “cast” an individual piece of type.

Type metal is an alloy (combination) of lead, antimony, and tin.

**Forme of Type**

Lines of type are placed and secured in a strong metal frame called a **chase** using a variety of objects called **leading, furniture, and quoins**. Together, these are called a forme of type.

**Videos on Printing and Type Casting**

“How Gutenberg cast his type” from the Crandall Historical Printing Museum: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SwsrqXmNeCY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SwsrqXmNeCY)

“Printing 101” from the Folger Shakespeare Library: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CN_KhB9SjVs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CN_KhB9SjVs)