

**When you print something, you make a copy of it.** If you need lots of copies, then printing copies from a master (main one) is the best thing to do. The master is often called a **printing plate**. Whatever is on the master will be printed **in reverse** (the other way round) - if you want to know what it will look like when it prints, put it in front of a mirror!



**Letterpress printing** is the relief printing of text and image. When something is *in relief* it means it's sticking up. Left: the guys are using letterpress printing (1568). It was the normal form of printing words from its invention by Johannes Gutenberg in the mid 1400s until the 1800s and was still used a lot until the second half of the 20th century.

**Block Printing**

3000 years ago people started printing using wooden blocks that had been carefully carved just like the one above.

**'Movable type'** uses movable pieces of type (individual letters) and it made printing much easier and quicker than carved block printing on wood. The Chinese are thought to have invented it in about 1040 and theirs was first made of of porcelain which is a very smooth clay. From 1300 they made their type out of wood. Eventually type was made out of metal.



**Offset Litho Printing**

At the moment, many books and newspapers are printed using the technique of offset lithography. Here's a newspaper being printed.



**Computer Printer**

We can print our writing and pictures from the computer now.

**Printing**