

# William Caxton

William Caxton was born in Kent in 1422. When he was 16 years old, he moved to London, where he became an apprentice for a merchant. He learned a lot about trading before he travelled to Bruges in Belgium.

The Duchess of Burgundy supported Caxton's work and asked him to translate books for her.

**A merchant was a person who traded with people from other places. They were often quite wealthy.**

## The Printing Press

Soon, William Caxton moved to Germany, where he learned about the art of printing. Printing was slowly becoming very important because until then, books had been copied by hand. This took a very long time so printing was a way to speed up the process.

## The First Printing Press in England

In 1476, William Caxton went to London and set up the very first printing press in England. People were very interested in this new machine and thought it was a wonderful invention. Instead of the slow process of hand writing all the books, they could be now be printed in their thousands much more speedily.

William Caxton died in 1492. He became very famous for bringing the first way of printing books to England.



# Questions about William Caxton

1. When was William Caxton born? **Tick one.**

1422

1476

2. What was his first job?

His first job was... \_\_\_\_\_

3. Who supported him with his work translating books from French into English?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. How were books copied before the printing press was invented?

They were copied by.... \_\_\_\_\_

5. What year did William Caxton take the printing press to England? **Tick one.**

1422

1476

6. What did people think about the printing press?

People thought... \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. When did William Caxton die? **Tick one.**

1476

1492

# Questions about William Caxton

## Answers

1. When was William Caxton born? Tick one.

1422

1476

2. What was his first job?

**His first job was as an apprentice for a merchant.**

3. Who supported him with his work translating books from French into English?

**The Duchess of Burgundy.**

4. How were books copied before the printing press was invented?

**They were copied by people hand-writing them out lots of times.**

5. What year did William Caxton take the printing press to England? Tick one.

1422

1476

6. What did people think about the printing press?

**People thought it was a wonderful invention.**

7. When did William Caxton die? Tick one.

1476

1492