**Quaestio:** Why did the invention of the Printing Press help to spread new ideas?

**Nunc Agenda:** Examine the documents below and answer the questions that follow.

**The Book Before Gutenberg**

"The earliest books were written on scrolls. From the Second Century A.D. to the present time, however, most books have been produced in the familiar codex format—in other words, bound at one edge. During the Middle Ages, manuscript books were produced by monks who worked with pen and ink in a copying room known as a scriptorium. Even a small book could take months to complete, and a book the size of the Bible could take several years..."

**Source:** Gutenberg Exhibit, Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin

1. According to the documents, how were books made before the development of the Gutenberg press?

2. According to the timeline, who were the first people to experiment with movable type printing?

3. According to the timeline, when did printing become common in Europe?
Directions: Read the article “The Printing Press” by Steven Kris and answer the following questions.

1. How did Europeans first encounter printing?

2. Describe two problems with using woodcut blocks for printing?

3. Why was movable type better than block printing?

4. What was the first thing printed on Gutenberg’s press?

5. Describe at least two of the immediate (short-term) effects that the printing press had on Europe.

6. How was the invention of the printing press similar to the invention of the internet?

Answer the Quaestio: Why did the invention of the Printing Press help to spread new ideas?