

Group evidence: paper and printing

One copy per group • Keep both pages together • No cutting

Group members: Reader _____ Recorder _____ Speaker _____



Diamond Sutra detail, woodblock-printed scroll, 868 CE. Real historical object image. S04 / A01.

Read together

Paper is a surface for writing. Chinese paper existed before 105 CE; a court record describes Cai Lun reporting improvements in making it. Printing is a method for making copies on paper. A carver could cut a whole page into one woodblock, ink it, and press paper onto it many times. If the same block survived, the same page could be printed again. In the 1000s, Bi Sheng developed movable type made from separate pieces. Printers rearranged pieces when text changed. The best choice depended on the job: a saved whole-page block suited an identical page, while movable pieces allowed selected characters to be changed.

Reading length: 105 words. Original classroom summary based on S01, S03, and S04.

G-R1 Underline what paper provides. Box what printing does. Circle the condition that makes each method useful.

Method	What stays together?	When is it useful here?
Whole-page woodblock	One complete page	_____
Movable pieces	Separate characters	_____

Historical note: actual printing surfaces carried reversed characters. The letter models on page 2 are simplified teaching models.

One task, two printing situations

Use the same reading for both situations. Your reason must match the exact condition.

Scenario A Reuse a saved whole-page block

Next year, the printer must make the identical page again. The original whole-page woodblock has been saved in usable condition.

G-A1 Choose the whole-page block. Explain the value of reusing its saved arrangement.

Scenario B Adjust movable pieces

The printer must rearrange or replace selected text. A simplified teaching model provides separate pieces: A B C → A D C.

G-B1 Point to the changed piece. Explain what separate pieces allow the printer to do.

Prepare one short comparison

G-C1 Complete the report. Be ready to share in about 45 seconds.

In Scenario A, _____ fits because _____

In Scenario B, _____ fits because _____

The methods differ because _____

Do not claim that movable type is always faster or cheaper. State the job condition.