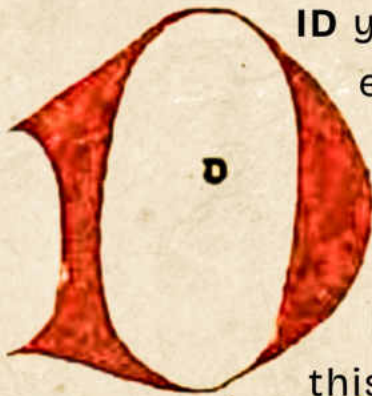




# LACUNA LETTERING

## FROM BLANK TO BEAUTIFUL

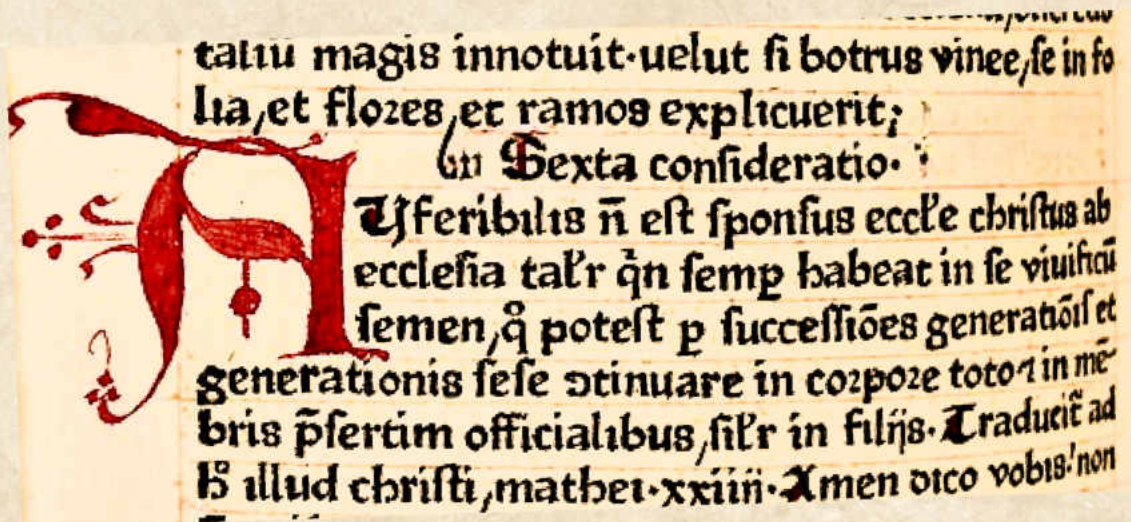


**W**ould you know that hundreds of years ago, the earliest printed books kept things simple by just using black ink for text. If people wanted colour, they'd sometimes decorate the book by hand with paints or coloured ink after the book had been printed with the black text (like this image below).

What letter in **red** do you see above?



What letter in **red** do you see to the right?



The printers of these books, hundreds of years ago, left spaces in the text so that artists could add in the red coloured letters after the book was printed.

The space where a decorated red letter was to be added was called a **LACUNA**.

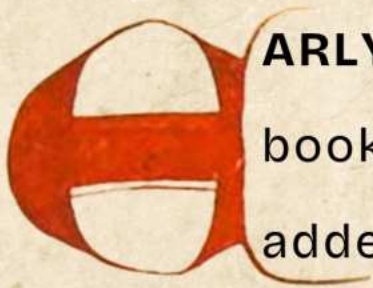


# FILL IN THE GAPS

Choose the correct words below to fill in the gaps in the text

**initial   stand   adding   printed   missing   artist**

To help you to choose the correct word, the number of letters in each word is shown like this \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ , and one letter from the correct word is already added



**E**ARLY printers left spaces in \_ r \_ \_ \_ \_

books for decorated initial letters to be

added by hand by an \_ \_ t \_ \_ \_ after

printing was completed. In books printed up to the early 1500s, \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ a \_ letters were often coloured red by artists, like the letter **E** here above, to make these letters \_ \_ \_ n \_ out.

Early artists \_ \_ d \_ \_ \_ these letters were called **rubricators** (from the Latin word **rubricare**, which means "**to colour red**"). The space where the \_ \_ s \_ \_ \_ \_ part was to be added was called a **LACUNA**.



# LACUNA GUIDE LETTERS



**I**N the space where the large initial letter was to be added by an artist, a space (called a **LACUNA**), would be left in the printed page for the large red coloured capital to be added afterwards by an artist.

**Only a small guide letter would be printed.** That is so the artist would not have to guess which letter was meant to go in the space.

Do you see the tiny letter f in the space to the right? Use a red coloured pencil or pen to create a large red letter F to fill the space.

Jesu. Ad laude lantunum  
Seraphici patris nostri Francisci z omniū san-  
ctorū: incipit Prefatio.

**I**de recta ad  
orans Trinitatē z redēptorem  
Psalmoz explanatis laudibz  
benedico Adonai recolligen.  
tractatū vrile sūmariū. Namqz  
iuxta beati Augustini sententiā. mūdus faci-

**C**irca principiū  
libri psalmoz qtuor p̄sideratōes  
sunt p̄notāde añ q̄ p̄seqmur expo-  
sitiōem. Prima p̄sideratio ē huius  
libri cā materiali. Scda de eiusdē causa formati-  
Tertia de ei⁹ cā effectuali. Quarta ē ipsius cā fis-  
nali. Quo ad p̄mū q̄rit. Quid sit subiectū hu-  
ius libri: Ad qd̄ r̄ndet fm Cassiodo. sup b̄ libro  
tractantē. z p̄cor. Lyrā q̄ totus ch̄s q̄rit ad cas-

Use a red coloured pencil or pen to create a large red letter C to fill the space where there is the very small letter c to the left



# Oldest Book in Leighton Library has missing decorated initial letters

The oldest book in Dunblane's historic Leighton Library was published in 1504. This is an example of a printed book which never had the initials added in. The cost of adding in initials by an artist could easily have been more than the cost of buying the book itself. Since the small guide letters were printed, it was just as easy to read without going to the extra cost of paying for an artist to add the large decorated initial letters.

This image is from that book, which is by Hungarian writer Pelbartus Ladislaus of Temesvár (known as Temesvári Pelbárt).



The book's title is "Expositio compendiosa et familiaris : sensus litteratē et mysticū cōplectēs." This is a textbook on the book of Psalms.

Use a red coloured pencil or pen to create a large red letter D to fill the space where there is the very small letter d above. Robert Leighton's handwriting can be seen in the margins of pages of this book, so we know this was one of his own books.



# Circle, underline or decorate

An artist rubricator might also circle, underline or decorate around words in the text in these early books to make words stand out and be more attractive.

Add a red decorated capital initial letter **S** in the space on this page from the 1504 book in Dunblane's historic Leighton Library.

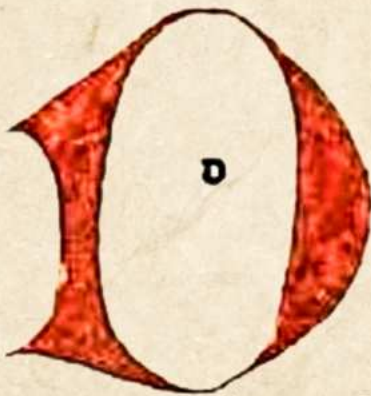
Use a red coloured pencil or pen to **circle, underline or decorate around words** in the text below

**S**ecunda cōsidera  
tio est de causa formali vī pmissi. Ubi  
est sciendū q duplex est forma alicui⁹  
libri. s. forma tractatus ⁊ forma tractādi. Forma  
tractatus est diuissio libri. Forma aut tractādi est  
modus agendi in tali libro. Ad ppositū. Forma

The book is written in Latin as Latin was a near universal language in Western Europe at the time of this book being printed. Many of Robert Leighton's books in the Leighton Library are in Latin.



# Copy these Decorated Initial Letters

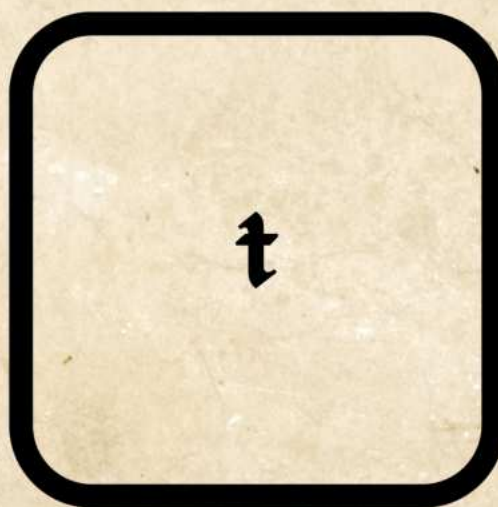
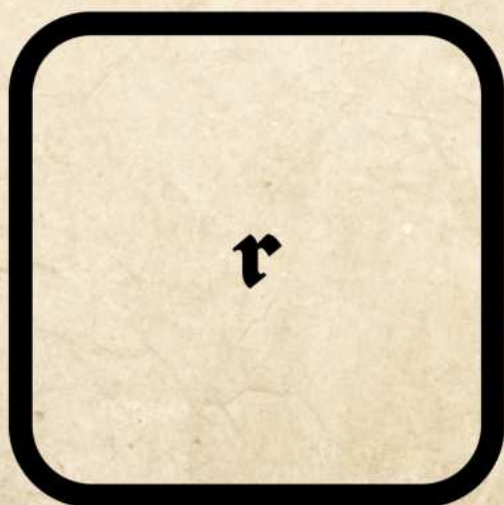
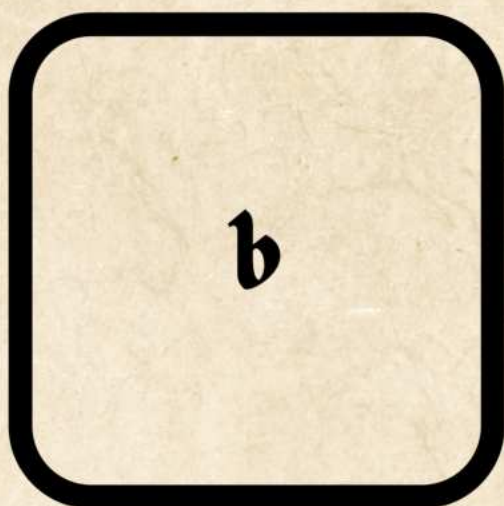




# Design Your Own Decorated Initial Letters



Create your own designs of red decorated capital initial letters for each of the letters in the spaces on this page - make them as fancy as you like to fill the space in each box.





# Recreate the Role of a Rubricator

Create your own story and decorated letters



Three horizontal lines with a decorative, wavy, light blue pattern, intended for writing a story.

Four horizontal lines with a decorative, wavy, light blue pattern, intended for writing a story.



Four horizontal lines with a decorative, wavy, light blue pattern, intended for writing a story.

Three horizontal lines with a decorative, wavy, light blue pattern, intended for writing a story.