Partnering Outside the Box:
Engaging Uses for Primary Sources in the Elementary Classroom

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Learning in Interactive Environments:

• Prepare K–8 students for a visit to the Lilly Library

• Provide students with historical context

• Create an appreciation of medieval manuscripts as items of material culture & craftsmanship
Combining Prior Knowledge & New Experiences

Pre-Lilly Library visit preparation:
✓ In-class exercises --
  o Vocabulary review
  o Medieval music
  o Age appropriate reading
  o Examples of digital surrogates from the Digital Scriptorium image database

✓ Classroom visit --
  o Demonstrations
  o Sampling of scriptorium tools and supplies
  o Hands-on activities
  o Review digital surrogates

http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/collections/ascriptorium.htm
### Pre-learning activities

**Medieval Manuscripts**

*Selected Vocabulary & Additional Information*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Illumination:</strong></th>
<th>To decorate (a manuscript, book, etc.) with colors and gold or silver, as was often done in the Middle Ages.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Iron oak gall ink:</strong></td>
<td>Is a purple-black or brown-black ink made from iron salts and tannic acids from vegetable sources. It was the standard writing and drawing ink in Europe, from about the 12th century to the 19th century, and remained in use well into the 20th century (also known as iron gall nut ink or oak gall ink).</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Manuscript:</strong></td>
<td>A “manuscript” is a book written and produced by hand. During the Middle Ages, before printing in the fifteenth century, all books were manuscripts.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Middle Ages:</strong></td>
<td>Medieval times (also called the Middle Ages) refers to a block of time in history from 500 A.D. to about 1500 A.D.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Monastery:</strong></td>
<td>A house or place of residence occupied by a community of persons, especially monks, living in separation from the outside world under religious vows.</td>
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<td><strong>Monk:</strong></td>
<td>(In Christianity) a man who has withdrawn from the world for a lifetime or for a time to become a member of monastery according to a particular rule and system of obedience.</td>
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Helpful handouts for in-class review

**TOOLS OF THE TRADE**

- Mortar and pestle for mixing ingredients to make powdered paints
- Gold coins hammered to make thin sheets of gold leaf
- Quill pen made from goose feather, sharpened at tip, dipped in ink and used to write text
- Egg to mix with powdered pigments to make paint
- Bull horns for holding red and black ink
- Reed pen made of bamboo sharpened at tip used for drawing fine lines
- Thick paint brush used for painting broad areas of color
- Thin paint brush for painting small areas of color
- Pen knife has multiple purposes from sharpening quills to holding down one side of leaf while writing on the other side.
- Bag of powdered pigments
- Stylus, a sharp-tipped instrument used for pricking holes in parchment for ruling
- Eyeglasses used for magnifying small details
- Bottles of ingredients such as plants, roots, stones, and insects before being crushed to a powdered form to make different colored paints
- Burnisher used toolis gold leaf on illuminated manuscript leaves
- Bottles of black and red ink
Age-appropriate reading material
In the mountains of Mourne, up twisted old bends, past blackberry brambles and ancient wood glens, there stood a tall tower—a circle of stone—where holy men lived, wearing simple brown robes, filling simple brown books, eating simple brown bread, and saying their prayers by their simple brown beds.

They all looked alike, they all seemed the same, except for the brother they called Theophane.
Magic in the Margins

A Medieval Tale of Bookmaking
Marguerite Makes a Book
Structured Classroom Visit

Mrs. Paskash & Mrs. Leake
2012 Third Grade Class Visit
St. Charles School
Lori Dekydtspotter

Class Visit Outline

**Supplies:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vellum</th>
<th>Awl</th>
<th>Reed tube</th>
<th>Pigments</th>
<th>Lampblack</th>
<th>Candle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paste</td>
<td>Gum Arabic</td>
<td>Ground Gum Arabic</td>
<td>Paint brushes</td>
<td>Shell gold</td>
<td>Matches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egg</td>
<td>Egg separator</td>
<td>Glass</td>
<td>Spoon</td>
<td>Gold leaf</td>
<td>Liquid gold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron oak galls</td>
<td>Iron oak gall ink</td>
<td>Bone folder</td>
<td>Lilly Library Myers</td>
<td>Quills</td>
<td>Binder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books</td>
<td>Grit</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Burnisher</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I. Introduction

II. Look at handout (scriptorium tools) – When I talk about/show one of these items, tell me.

III. Medieval manuscripts first made in monasteries, then gradually moved to become a business outside of the Church.
   a. Notice the windows, desks (slanted), *no copy machine!*; books read out loud and everyone copies at the same time on occasion

IV. What to write on? No paper in the West yet, but lots of sheep and cows – vellum & parchment
   a. Preparing & cutting
   b. Ruling
   c. Preparing the layout
   d. Mistakes? No erasers, so you scrape ink off

V. Something to write with—quills and ink
   a. Quills
   b. Lampblack (show)
   c. Gall ink (show) – video (4 minutes)
What is a manuscript?

What tools were needed to create an illuminated manuscript?

Classroom discussions reinforce students’ prior knowledge.
Hands-on activities & demonstrations
Students can create their own manuscript layout complete with illumination & text on this bifolium handout.
Writing & decorating with a quill pen

... not as easy as it looks!
Fur & bristle paint brushes
The Illustrator
or
The Illuminator
Review the Elements of an Illuminated Manuscript

Following the page layout & ruling …

Decorated margins

Miniature painting

Gold decoration:
* Initial
* Miniature painting
* Margin decorations

Text (Calligraphy)

Decorated & illuminated initial
Students create their own illuminated initials
Lilly Library Visit
Tempus enim prope johanes
leper eipsaque sunt in ellas
qui id est et par.ideo qui est
et quid est et qui venturum est.
Et septem signis qui sunt

Hoc annus gloriae meae

Quod est rex

Messest mea

Reliqua antiphona

Ne delaudibus pat
Noctaia Augusta dux mihi Ante
Lette. Hic sodes vii et st Augusta
Quadro pavo petri tundus Domus
unde sede o. y. nob. Creda situr in die
%sanctitatis beate virginis

Nunc iuris dixit unscere patruo y impulsione gestus tune qua ca
**Resources:**

- **The Lilly Library:**  http://www.indiana.edu/~liblilly/
- **Digital Scriptorium:** http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/collections/scriptorium.htm
- **Leaves of gold: Treasures of manuscript illumination from Philadelphia collections.**
  http://leavesofgold.org/learn/index.html
Questions?

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