Monasteries

In Anglo-Saxon times, the vast majority of people who could read and write were Christian monks, who lived in monasteries. At this time, the printing press had not been invented, and new books could be created only through an old one being copied out by hand. This took place in a monastery's scriptorium, where monks worked with pen and ink on vellum (calfskin).

Illuminated Manuscripts

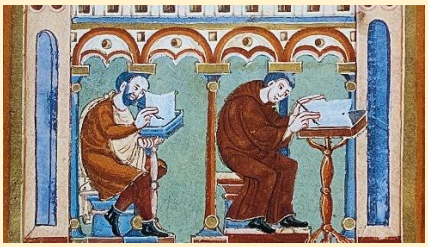


The Lindisfarne Gospels are a surviving example of an illuminated manuscript.

Illuminated Letters

At the start of new chapters or paragraphs, medieval manuscripts often had a highly ornate letter signifying the beginning. They are named from the Latin word *illuminare*, which means 'to light up'. This is because gold leaf and silver leaf could be included in the decoration. Illuminated letters can include intricate patterns or incorporate pictures within them.

A Monastic Scriptorium



Monks copying out religious texts in the monastic scriptorium.

Illuminated Letters



Images incorporated with the initial letter of a chapter.

Medieval Script



Medieval lettering was more complicated than today's, with letters requiring several strokes.

Key Vocabulary

Majuscules	Capital letters
Miniscules	Small letters
Ascenders	Parts of the letter above the main writing line
Descenders	Parts of the letter below the main writing line
Stroke	Any mark made with the pen
Hairline	The thinnest strokes made with the pen.

Year 5 Knowledge Organiser

Calligraphy

- Understand calligraphy as *drawing letters.*
- Use a variety of source material.
- Work in a sustained and independent way from observation, experience and imagination.
- Explore and manipulate visual properties of different elements, such as line, tone and shape.

Examples of Existing Art

Calligraphy

Calligraphy

Calligraphy

Calligraphy

Calligraphy

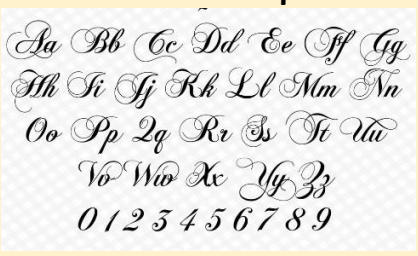
Calligraphy

Monastic Script



From the Lindisfarne Gospels (written in Latin).

Modern Example



Ornate calligraphy is often used on invitations.