

<p>1. The Bible is an illuminated manuscript: An illuminated manuscript includes luminous illustrations such as the beautiful capital letter I you see here. Luminous or illuminated generally refer to the shine of the decorative gold leaf, which is real gold pounded very flat and then adhered to the page.</p>	<div> <div></div> <div>Your name:</div> </div>
<p>2. Script: The first thing you probably notice about the Bible is the tiny script. It is handwritten! Most likely by a monk working as a scribe in a scriptorium. Apart from praying, eating, and sleeping, he would have copied text by hand from one book to another. Working by natural light and candlelight only he would write with a quill pen made from a goose or swan feather. In his other hand was a penknife, used to sharpen the quill and to scrape any mistakes off the parchment (sheepskin) paper. Consider all these details as you think about the achievement of hand-producing a manuscript during medieval times!</p>	<p>7. Manicule: From the Latin <i>manu</i> for hand, a manicule is a very common medieval notation or from of marginalia. Some are serious ways to point to an important passage or line. Others a more playful doodle. Zoom in here to see a variety, then try your hand (!) at drawing your own manicule. Don't worry if you can't draw!</p>
<p>3. How do you think the scribe wrote so neatly and straight?</p>	<p>8. Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bible is almost 400 pages long • Each page is handmade from sheepskin • All the inks are made and applied by hand • The illuminations are made with real gold <p>These elements point to something that was very expensive to create. When this Bible was created during the late 1200s, few people would have been able to afford to own it. In addition, few people were literate, and of those who were, few could read Latin.</p> <p>Together, all these factors tell us that books, manuscripts, and written information in general at the time, were rare, expensive, and unobtainable for most.</p>
<p>4. Ruling: Before the scribe began writing, someone else, most likely an apprentice scribe, would put down ruling, or straight lines to guide the scribe. Zoom in here to see remnants of the ruling in the Bible.</p>	<p>9. Thinking about the time of the Bible and our time today, reflect on what the phrase “information has value” means to you:</p>
<p>5. Substrate (think paper): This Bible was handwritten on parchment, which is made from sheepskin. The skins of well over 100 sheep would have been used.</p>	<p>10. Now reflect on what you see as a barrier to equal access to information today:</p>
<p>6. Have you ever touched paper made from parchment or other animal skin (choose one answer)?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes I have.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No I have not.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No I have not, but now I really want to!</p>	