

**Hello everyone,**

Over the last two weeks in History lessons, we have learnt about the timeline of Georgian Britain, the changes that happened to Bath and Bristol during this era, and Georgian architecture that remains in Bath and Bristol. In today's lesson, we will be learning about a famous writer - Jane Austen - who lived in Bath and Bristol during the Georgian era. Jane wrote six novels which each mention Bath and there is a Jane Austen Centre in Bath which exhibits some of her work.

Over the next two weeks, you will be writing Jane Austen's biography. Below is an example biography, which you will try to recreate. Quickly, read through this example and think about any positives and ways to improve the work.

## Biography of Jane Austen.

### Childhood and early life.

Jane Austen, the famous English novelist, lived during the Georgian era.

Jane Austen was born on the 16th December 1775 in Steventon, Hampshire. She was seventh of eight children including six brothers and one sister. Her brothers James, George, Edward, Henry, Francis and Charles were all senior to her but George was deaf and mute. She lived with her mother and father Cassandra and George Austen. Cassandra was an amateur watercolourist and George owned a library. Jane also had a sister called Cassandra. They were both spinners (never married). The girls lived away from home in Mrs Eawley's house, where they unfortunately caught a disease called Typhus, and nearly died from it.

### Becoming a novelist.

Sometime in 1787, Jane started writing books but mostly novels. By June 1793, she had written a full body of work, which she 'fair copied' in three note books. Her novel is referred to as *Swynsilla*. Jane Austen loved sewing and attending church. Soon after, she wrote a novel called *Elinor and Marianne* and it was later rejected by publishers; it was never published. Another novel she wrote was *'the First Impression'* which was later renamed *Pride and Prejudice*.

### Links with Bath and Bristol.

Jane's father (George Austen) settled in Bath. Jane was proposed to in 1802. She sold her novel *'Susan'* to a book shop owner in London. She lost her creativity when her father tragically passed away. Jane lived in Bath in 1805 on thirteen Queen Street for six years until 1811 when she moved to four Sydney Place. She again moved to twenty nine Gay Street. After this she left Bath permanently and lived in Clifton, Southampton.

### Personal life and legacy.

Jane was a spinster (never married) and was later diagnosed with Addison's disease. She was taken to hospital and she unfortunately died on the 18th July, 1817. She died of Hodgkins lymphoma and was later buried in Winchester Cathedral.



*Today's first task is for you to research Jane Austen and answer a few questions in your books. I have added three links at the bottom of this document which are extremely informative - try to read at least two of them.*

*As you are reading the information, you have two tasks to complete.*

**1. Answer the following questions in full sentences in your books - you will want to use this information in your biographies**

- a. When did Jane Austen live in Bath?**
- b. What two books did Jane write whilst living in Bath?**
- c. Where was Jane Austen born?**
- d. When did Jane Austen die?**
- e. How many brothers and sisters did Jane have?**
- f. What is the name of Jane Austen's first novel?**

**2. The second task is for you to record 5 to 10 key pieces of information that you think is important to include in Jane Austen's biography. As you are reading the texts, write any key sentences/information in your book. You can also take information from the example biography shown on the first page. EXTRA TASK - record your favourite Jane Austen quote from the third link.**

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic\\_figures/austen\\_jane.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/austen_jane.shtml)

[http://www.janeaustensoci.freeuk.com/pages/branches/bath\\_home.htm](http://www.janeaustensoci.freeuk.com/pages/branches/bath_home.htm)

<https://www.lottie.com/blogs/strong-women/jane-austen-biography-for-kids>

**The Jane Austen Society**  
of the United Kingdom

**Bath & Bristol Group**

*Fantastic work today. I hope you have recorded lots of key information, as you will be writing up the biographies during next week's lesson.*