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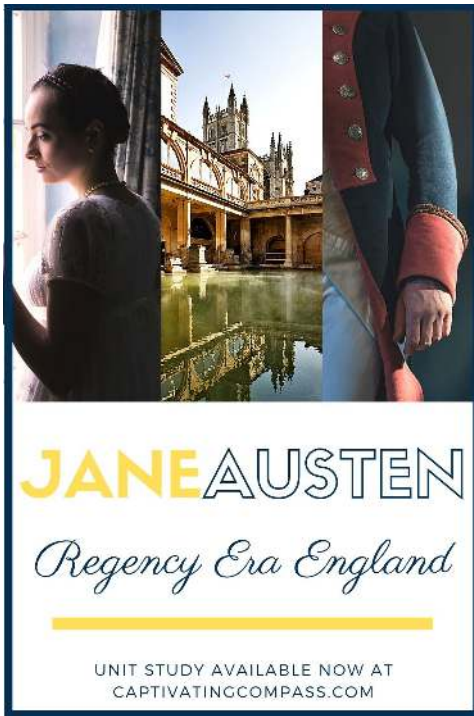
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Jane Austen's Regency Era England Unit Study

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[You May:](#)

[You May Not:](#)

[About this Unit Study](#)

[Companion Resources from
www.CaptivatingCompass.com.](#)

[How to use this study.](#)

[Lesson 1: Getting To Know Jane](#)

[Read a few more of Jane Austen's Biographies](#)

[Lesson 2: Jane's Life & the Other Parts of the World](#)

[Lesson 3: A Brief Overview of Regency Society in England](#)

[Lesson 4: Jane's England: Geography, Customs, Culture & Society](#)

[Lesson 5: A Deeper look at the History & Customs of the Regency Era](#)

[Final Presentation.](#)

[Final Project: Dinner with Jane in Regency Era England](#)

[Additional Reading](#)

[Are you heading to the United Kingdom or Europe and want travel resources for your homeschooling and traveling family?](#)

About this Unit Study

This study of the life of Jane Austen and Regency Era England uses a variety of resources including online videos, and articles.

Since you may (or may not) be reading one of Jane Austen's books before, during or after this study. Each lesson is complete. However, *if some sessions are omitted there may not be as much positive success with the final projects and assignments.* Regardless, you will enjoy learning about Jane Austen's life and what it was like to live in England in the early 1800s

Jane Austen's Literature Resources

You will find literature study resources for Jane Austen's works sprinkled throughout the lessons. Perhaps one will pique your interest. I encourage you to pick one and continue to enjoy the unique characters and stories only Jane Austen could create.

Companion Resources from www.CaptivatingCompass.com.

Quotes & Copywork - This collection of famous quotes by Jane Austen is a great companion to this Regency era study.

Dinner with Jane Austen & Other Famous Folks from the early-1800s -

A fun project for the family or learning community to learn about many aspects of Regency culture during the early 1800's.

Additionally, there is an answer key as a separate file.

How to use this study.


It is recommended that your student create a digital file or keep a notebook journal for this unit study. Answer the questions in each lesson and print out anything needed to complete activities, quizzes or projects.

Let's Study Jane Austen's Regency Era England is part of the Let's Study Series. Other titles in this series include:

- [Let's Study Archimedes: Beyond 'Eureka!'](#)
- [Let's Study Galileo: Science & Truth](#)
- [Let's Study Isaac Newton: A Life of Discovery](#)
- [Let's Study Shakespeare's Medieval England](#)
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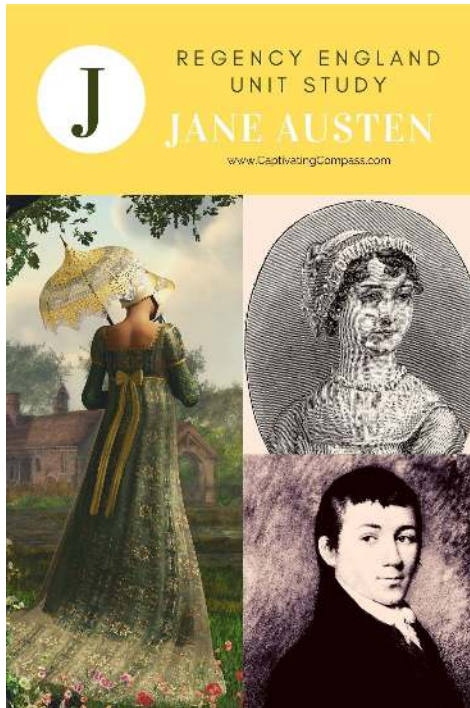


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Lesson 1: Getting To Know Jane

Task 1:

Read This [Jane Austen Biography](#) or this [Biography of Jane Austen](#) (or both).

Watch this [video about Jane Austen's Core Values](#).

Watch: Jane Austen Sarcasm & Subversion - This animated video gives a good account of Jane in historical context. <https://youtu.be/KwD-1rW254g>

EXTRA: BBC [Jane Austen Country](#) Documentary - This is a classic!

Based on these videos and reading selections about Jane Austen, answer these questions.

1. Where was Jane Austen born?
2. In what year was Jane Austen born?
3. What was the profession of Jane Austen's father?
4. How many sisters did Jane Austen have?
5. Of what disease did Jane and her sister nearly die when she was (approximately) eight?
6. Which of Jane's novels was published first?
7. When Jane was 25 years old, her father made the sudden decision to retire and remove to a larger city. To which city did the family move?
8. Like many women of her day, Jane Austen was a prolific letter writer. The letters that have survived have been published and show her razor wit. Though she corresponded with many people, the person she corresponded most with was whom?
9. Jane Austen had six brothers. Which of the following names is NOT one of her brothers?
 - George
 - Charles

- Edward
 - Graeme
10. One of Jane Austen's brothers was adopted by cousins of Mr. Austen. He subsequently changed his surname, as was the custom, in order to inherit their large estate. What was his new name?
11. Jane Austen started writing short stories from the time she was very young. Collectively, what are these short stories now known as?
12. Jane Austen's immediate family was filled with intelligent, enterprising and hard-working people. She had two brothers who were sailors who rose to the rank of Admiral. Which of her brothers were they?
13. Jane Austen's birthday was on...?
14. What was the original title of 'Sense and Sensibility'?
15. With whom did Jane fall in love in 1795?
16. Jane received a proposal of marriage in 1802 from the younger brother of three of her close friends and the heir to a very good estate. She first accepted, then rejected, the proposal early the next day. Who was the man who made this proposal?
- William Wordsworth
 - William Cooper
 - Harrison Cooper
 - Harris Bigg-Wither
17. In what year did Jane's father die?
18. Jane Austen died in Winchester in July of 1817. Today, doctors believe that she was suffering from:
- Diabetes mellitus
 - Leukemia
 - Cancer
 - Addison's disease
19. Where is Jane Austen buried?
20. Jane was born during the Georgian period, but which period is she most closely linked to?
21. Who was Jane Austen's royal admirer?
22. During her life, Jane Austen lived in Steventon, Bath, and Southampton; for a short time in Clifton, and finally where?

You can check/grade your answers using the Answer Key file.

Task 2:

Read a few more of Jane Austen's Biographies

While you already know quite a bit about Jane Austen now, read these three articles about Jane Austen for unique perspectives on her personal character & life.

Read page 8-10 of this document

<https://www.scr.org/docs/default-source/media/11-12guides/prideguide.pdf>

Read this short article, stop at the annotated bibliography (unless that is of interest to you)

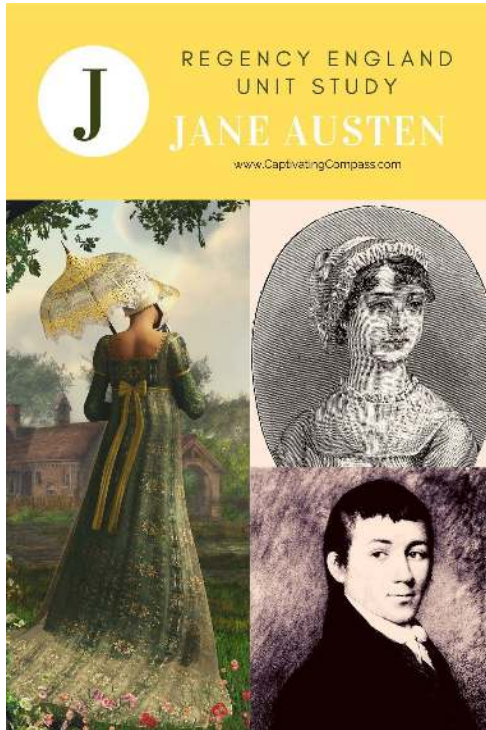
http://departments.kings.edu/womens_history/jausten.html

A different perspective of Jane Austen. Read the article and listen to the first interview of the podcast. * This article has several links to other articles that might be of interest but they are beyond the scope of this course, so just read those if you are interested.

<https://www.historyextra.com/period/georgian/romance-and-reality-in-jane-austens-world/>

End of Section Project:

Write an essay or create a presentation about: 15 Things you learned about Jane Austen and how studying her life helps us to better understand the Regency Era in England.



Lesson 2: Jane's Life & the Other Parts of the World

Review Austen's Time line. Read through [Jane Austen's Time Line](#) Make note below of what was happening in Jane's life during the years listed. Then, find out what was happening in other parts of the world at these important times in Jane's life. For each year summarize what was happening in America, France, Spain & England. Use search phrases such as: "What was happening in America in 1775?" to find your answers on the internet. (You may decide to organize this information differently in your own digital document or notebook.)

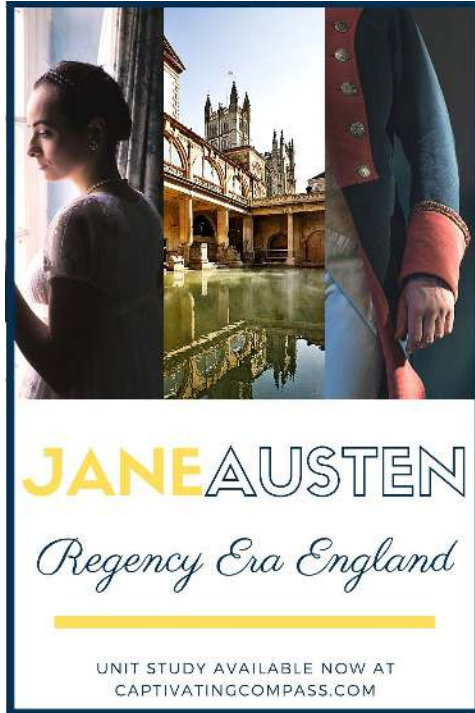
Year	Jane's Life	England	America	France	Spain
1775					
1783					
1787					
1790 -99					
1800					
1802					
1802					
1805					
1809					

1812					
1815					
1817					

During this next section of reading, go back and add additional important information to the timeline above.

- Read this article about [the effect of the French Revolution on England](#).
- Read this also in summary of the same time period from England's perspective.
<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/learn/story-of-england/georgians/>
- Read [this timeline which looks at Neoclassicism & Enlightenment](#) and will provide some interesting additions to the timeline of world events (rather than just war).

End Of Section Project: Write an essay comparing and contrasting experiences in her life with those happening in other areas of the world.



Lesson 3: A Brief Overview of Regency Society in England

Task 1: How much do you know about Austen's time?

Use your previous knowledge and imagination. Take notes on the main ideas you come up with.

- Read page 5-7 of [this study guide](#) for Pride & Prejudice.
- Also read about The [Regency Era History](#) .

Now, answer these questions:

In Austen's time...

1. How did people dress?
2. How did they behave in society?
3. How did they socialize?
4. How did they make a living?
5. What things did they worry about?

Task 2: Watch [this video](#), published in The Guardian. **Now, watch it again**, and note as much information as possible about dress, manners, and attending a regency ball at the Bath Pump Room.

Task 3: Read the Pride & Prejudice extracts below and answer the True or False Questions.

Extract A

The village of Longbourn was only one mile from Meryton; a most convenient distance for the young ladies, who were usually tempted thither three or four times a week, to pay their duty to their aunt and to a milliner's shop just over the way. The two youngest of the family, Catherine and Lydia, were particularly frequent in these attentions; their minds were more vacant than their sisters', and when nothing better offered, a walk to Meryton was necessary to amuse their morning hours and furnish conversation for the evening; and however bare of news the country in general might be, they always contrived to learn some from their aunt. At present, indeed, they were well supplied both with news and happiness by the recent arrival of a militia regiment in the neighbourhood; it was to remain the whole winter, and Meryton was the headquarters.

Extract B

"They are going to be encamped near Brighton; and I do so want papa to take us all there for the summer! It would be such a delicious scheme; and I dare say would hardly cost anything at all. Mamma would like to go too, of all things! Only think what a miserable summer else we shall have!" "Yes," thought Elizabeth, "that would be a delightful scheme indeed, and completely do for us at once. Good Heaven! Brighton, and a whole campful of soldiers, to us, who have been overset already by one poor regiment of militia, and the monthly balls of Meryton!"

Answer True or False according to the texts. Underline the lines from the text that support your answers.

1. The Bennet girls' occasional pastime was to visit the town nearby. ()
2. In Regency England, people living in the countryside did not have much access to news of what was happening elsewhere. ()
3. The main source of news was local gossip. ()
4. A whole navy unit was being stationed in Meryton for the winter. ()
5. The military staying in Meryton is moving to Brighton in the summer and Mr. Bennet is taking his daughters to the seaside town. ()
6. Lydia thinks that spending the summer in the country would be depressing without the regiment there. ()
7. Elizabeth thinks that going to Brighton in the summer would be a good idea. ()
8. Elizabeth's thoughts suggest that the arrival of troops to towns and villages during the Napoleonic wars considerably disrupted the lives of country families. ()

Task 4:

Read the quotation from Fulford's article *Jane Austen and the Military*. Can you find links between the historical situations described in the article and the plot and characters in *Pride and Prejudice*? Discuss this with your family.

'In the British countryside of the late eighteenth century the most striking new thing was an officer's coat. (...) despite the alarm about a possible French invasion, the militia impressed the public more as a spectacle than as a fighting force.'

'A soldier posted away from his home district was free from those who knew him and his reputation. His very identity was changed: he was now an officer by title, and his previous self and his social status were covered by his gaudy regimental dress.' Fulford, T. (2002).

Check/grade your answers using the Answer Key file.

For upper high school students and/or those choosing a deeper study of Austen's Literature. Read Fulford's [Sighing for a Soldier: Jane Austen and Military Pride and Prejudice](#) in its entirety.

Task 5: Write sentences comparing and contrasting the Regency period with contemporary times. Use some of the expressions in the box below. Make sure your sentences are related to the main issues you have discovered so far in your studies. If you have read (or watched) *Pride & Prejudice* then incorporate ideas from this as well.

-er /-est or more/most Less/least as...as The same as similar to Different from	about approximately fairly nearly quite roughly
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Section Project:

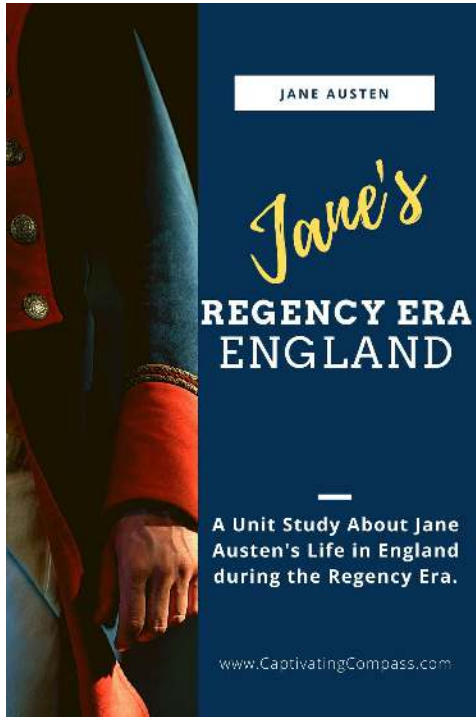
Choose one aspect of life in Regency times. Create a visual representation (poster/PowerPoint slides) comparing it to contemporary times. Use your knowledge gained from Tasks 1-5 and the sentences in Task 5 as a starting point.

Present your completed project to your family or learning community.

Section Quiz:

1. Who was the Englishman that defeated Napoleon at Waterloo in 1815?
A. King George B. Admiral Nelson C. The Duke of Wellington
2. Since her father was a clergyman, Jane Austen always portrayed the clergy as good, kind, upstanding people.
A. True B. False
3. Who in fact appointed the clergy serving the parish within an Estate?
A. The local Bishop B. The Archbishop of Canterbury C. The Lord or Lady of the Estate
4. In the English Army at the time, most rank promotions were based on:
A. Royal patronage B. Merit C. They were purchased
5. A pelisse is a...
A. Long-sleeved ladies' jacket B. A square dance for four couples C. A card game
6. What kind of shop is a milliner's?
A. Clothing shop B. A hats shop C. A shoes and bags shop
7. Which two tourist attractions were created by the Prince Regent?
A. Regent's Park and Bath's Royal Crescent
B. Bath's Royal Crescent and Brighton Pavilion
C. Regent's Park and Brighton Pavilion

8. What is a parsonage?
- A. A public area reserved for walking
 - B. The house of the leader of the local Christian church
 - C. A place for local balls and public assembly
9. Which of these had the highest reputation in Regency England?
- A. The Navy B. The Army C. The Royal Guard



Lesson 4: Jane's England: Geography, Customs, Culture & Society

What's real & what's fiction: Pride & Prejudice Geography

This sections is designed to give a chance to get acquainted with the real places associated with Jane Austen and also a few of the fictional places in Pride & Prejudice.

Task 1: Some of the places below are associated with Jane Austen in real life. Others are fictional places in Pride and Prejudice. Check mark the correct column.

Place	Real	Fictional
Bath		
Chawton		
Meryton		
Longbourn		
Brighton		
Netherfield		
Southampton		

Rosings		
Pemberley		
Steventon		

Now, Google each of these cities and find if your answers are correct. Circle the places that are actually real places in England. **You can also check your answers in the Answer Key file.**

Task 2: In *Pride & Prejudice*, on her itinerary from **Hertfordshire** to **Derbyshire**, Elizabeth stops at **Blenheim** (the estate of the Duke of Marlborough), **Oxford**, the famous ruined Castle of **Kenilworth**, and the city of **Birmingham**, in **Warwickshire**.

Find pictures of some of the places in the novel.

Write short descriptions for the pictures and create your own *Pride and Prejudice* photo album or slide deck.

Task 3: Create a Google map itinerary showing these real locations that are mentioned in *Pride & Prejudice*. The fictitious towns/cities have been omitted, but the counties/shires they were in are real, so have been included.

While the locations are in alphabetical order here, put them in logical order for traveling from Bath, like Elizabeth did in *Pride & Prejudice*.

Add a screenshot or link to your photo album or slide deck.

Bath, Birmingham, Brighton, Chawton, Derbyshire, Hertfordshire,
 Kenilworth, Kent, Steventon, Warwickshire

Using a different color pin drop on your google-stye map. Add additional places mentioned in [Jane Austen's Time line](#) that are not already included on the map.

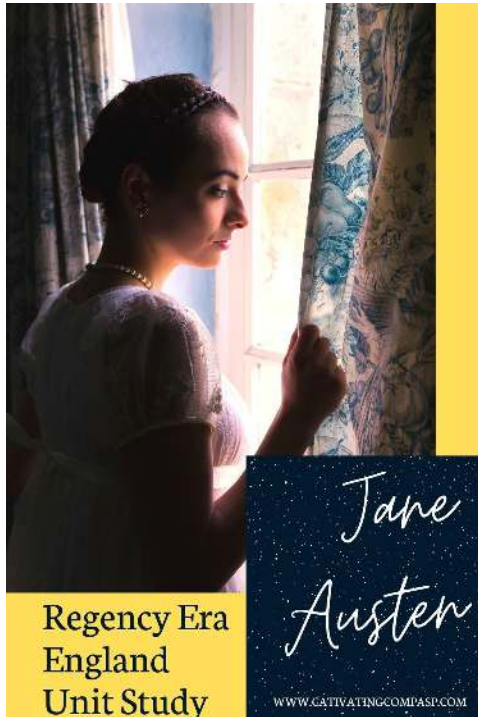
Add this screenshot or link to your photo album or slide deck.

Task 4: [Read about Bath](#), England - page 3.

Find images of Bath, England and add them to the slide deck or photo album. These can be both modern & historical

Section project. Based on what you have learned about Jane's life, travels around England and from section excerpts from *Pride & Prejudice*, write a 5 paragraph essay comparing/contrasting what Bath was like during the Regency Era and now..

Add your key points to your slide deck or photo album.



Lesson 5: A Deeper look at the History & Customs of the Regency Era

Task 1: **Customs**

Listen to this History Extra Podcast: [Romance & Reality in Jane Austen's World](#)

List the variety of ways Jane Austen's novels help us define & better understand the customs of the Regency Era

Task 2: Understanding Class & Society in the Regency Era

If you are able, take the opportunity to watch *Sense & Sensibility* or *Pride & Prejudice*, it will certainly broaden your understanding of class & social customs of the Regency era. But this section is doable without the movies.

In this series of videos, take notes about the topic of each video. Highlight the main and interesting points addressed. Identify what customs or ideas are strictly 'Regency Era' and which ones you might find in modern society where you live today.

Watch this video about [Class & Marriage](#):

Watch this video on [Gender & Morality](#)

Watch this video on [Public & Private Spaces](#)

Watch this video on the [Reality of Society & the Mundane of Life](#)

Read this text about [Status, Ranks & Class in the Regency Era](#) as portrayed in Austen's Novels.

Task 3:

Read this 'How to find a wife in 1813 ([How to Get a Girl](#)) p. 15. Take notes on how this process differs from what you might find in modern society where you live.

Read '[10 Ways to be Vulgar in Regency Society](#)' - p. 6 boxed section.

Read '[The Role of Women in Society](#)' - p. 7 Identify & take notes on the qualities of women that were highly regarded in the Regency Era

Using the last 2 reading sections create a table with a list of things society women of the Regency Era should do and a list of things that should not be done.

Task 4:

Re-read pages 5-9 of [this study guide](#) Create a table/list of things that girls/women should and should not do, men/boys should & should not do with regards to dancing/balls, and conversation & social calls.

Your tables should look something like this:

Girls/Women

	Should do	Should NOT do	
Dancing/Balls			
Socal Calls Conversation			

Create a similar table for Boys/Men

Task 5: Fashion

Research different [Regency Era fashion for Men & Women](#) This link is quite an exhaustive list of articles. Find images of clothes for everyday life, and formal wear for balls and dancing. Add links to these images to your photo album or slide deck. If you like, draw versions of a Regency era outfit for. Be sure to describe the clothing in detail.

Find at least 1 item that is still considered fashionable today where you live. Write about how it is the same as that of the Regency Era and how it is different. Add an image & the description to your slide deck or photo album.

Task 6: Food & Table Manners/Customs

Research [Regency Era recipes, table manners & customs](#).

Create a menu for either a Georgian Breakfast, and afternoon tea, or picnic in the countryside, or a dinner party.

Write a Toast for a dinner party. Here's more [information on how to write a toast](#).

Add all these items to your photo album or slide deck.

If it is mostly created in a digital document, select pictures of your menu/recipes for the slide deck and link to the digital document for the specific recipes.

Task 7: Better Understanding Regency Era Military in England

Read the following articles about Georgian & Regency Era Military. Write an essay detailing either:

- A specific battle/war (Battle of Fishguard, War of 1812, Battle of Trafalgar, England in the Napoleonic Wars), using the links below and other resources you may have on hand or find on the internet
 - [The Battle of Fishguard](#)
 - [A Brief Overview of the War of 1812](#)
 - [The Trafalgar Action](#)
 - [English Army in the Regency|Napoleonic War](#)
- Life in the Georgian. Regency Era Military
 - [The Mutiny on the Bounty](#)
 - [Half-Pay and Prize Money: Making a Living in Britain's Navy](#)
 - [Advancement in the British Army](#)
 - [The Prices of Officer's Commissions](#)
 - [Entry into the Officer Corps](#)

Section Project: Create a Survival Guide for Regency Era Society

Now that you have a broad understanding of Regency Era Society, pretend your best friend has been transported to the Regency Era in England. Using all your knowledge thus far and



particularly in Lesson 5, you must create a survival guide based on what you have learned. Create a survival guide for at least one of these sections below. Do more than one if you like.

Remember: Your friend is coming from the modern era and location in which you live and being transported to Bath, England circa 1810.

What will your friend need to know & do in order to become part of 'society'? Create a 'do this not that' style checklist for the focus of your checklist.

Write a personal note to your friend letting them know what things will be different to what they are accustomed to in their modern day world.

Select a topic from survival list:

- Coming Out into Society (For women, being presented as eligible for marriage.)
- Courtship and Marriage
- Dancing
- Education
- Etiquette and Introductions
- Fashion and Taste
- Food
- Military Service
- The Rules for Social Calls

Once complete, add the survival guide & letter to your photo album or slide deck.

Final Presentation.

Put the finishing touches on the Photo Album or slide deck and present what you have learned about Jane Austen and Regency Era England to your family or learning community.

Final Project: Dinner with Jane in Regency Era England

Instructions for the final project are in the Dinner with Jane companion resource. Expand your view of the world in Regency Era England by creating an exciting party for Jane and other famous folks that lived during the Regency Era.

Additional Reading

A fun read of the History of England as written by Jane Austen.

<https://www.bl.uk/onlinegallery/ttp/austen/accessible/introduction.html>

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