

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.

In Austen's time...

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

Task 2 Watch a video produced by *Visit England* and published in *The Guardian*. Note down as much information as possible.

'Bath's reputation as England's most romantic city is down to its most celebrated resident - Jane Austen. Marcel Theroux gets into character on the literary heritage trail by donning Mr Darcy's garb and manners, and attending a regency ball at the Bath Pump Room'

Source: *The Guardian*

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/travel/video/2013/jan/18/marcel-theroux-in-bath-england>

Listening Notes:

Task 3 Read the *Pride and Prejudice* extracts below.

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 and underline the lines 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 quotations 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 colleagues.

'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).

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 in the novel.

| | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| -er /-est or more/most | about |
| Less/least | approximately |
| as... as | fairly |
| the same as | nearly |
| similar to | quite |
| different from | roughly |

Homework

Choose one aspect of life in Regency times. Create a visual representation (poster/ PowerPoint slides) comparing it to contemporary times. Use your sentences in **Task 5** as a starting point.

Austen's Regency Cards

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>Who was the Englishman that defeated Napoleon at Waterloo in 1815?</p> <p>A. King George B. Admiral Nelson C. The Duke of Wellington</p> | <p>Since her father was a clergyman, Jane Austen always portrayed the clergy as good, kind, upstanding people.</p> <p>A. True B. False</p> | <p>Which of the sisters acted in the most inappropriate way?</p> <p>A. Lydia B. Kitty C. Mary</p> |
| <p>Which of these gentlemen had the greatest income?</p> <p>A. Mr Bingley B. Mr Darcy C. Colonel Fitzwilliam</p> | <p>Who in fact appointed the clergy serving the parish within an Estate?</p> <p>A. The local Bishop B. The Archbishop of Canterbury C. The Lord or Lady of the Estate</p> | <p>In the English Army at the time most rank promotions were based on:</p> <p>A. Royal patronage B. Merit C. They were purchased</p> |
| <p>A pelisse is a...</p> <p>A. Long-sleeved ladies' jacket B. A square dance for four couples C. A card game</p> | <p>What is the name of Darcy's estate?</p> <p>A. Pemberley B. Netherfield C. Rosings</p> | <p>What kind of shop is a milliner's?</p> <p>A. A clothes shop B. A hats shop C. A shoes and bags shop</p> |
| <p>Which two tourist attractions were created by the Prince Regent?</p> <p>A. Regent's Park and Bath's Royal Crescent B. Bath's Royal Crescent and Brighton Pavilion C. Regent's Park and Brighton Pavilion</p> | <p>What is a parsonage?</p> <p>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</p> | <p>Which of these had the highest reputation in Regency England?</p> <p>A. The Navy B. The Army C. The Royal Guard</p> |

