



# *Creative Curriculum*

## Jane Austen Glossary

*Here is a list of some unfamiliar words your pupils may come across when learning about Jane Austen and her world*

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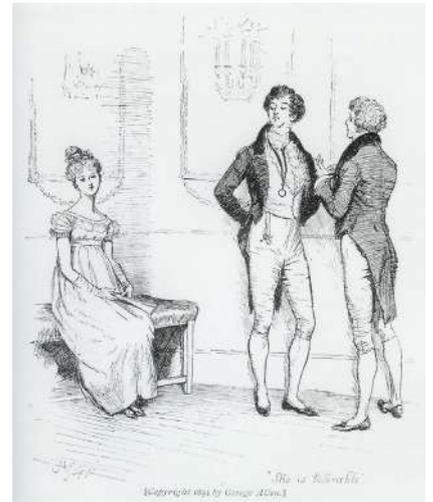
### *Accomplishments*

Skills learnt by young women as part of their education. Accomplishments included drawing, needlework, music, singing, dancing and learning a foreign language.

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### *Assembly rooms*

A hall in town where a public ball or 'assembly' was held. This type of ball was open to anyone who bought a ticket. Jane Austen attended assemblies herself and writes about them in her novels.



### *Bathing machine*



A wooden carriage that was wheeled out into the water to enable people to bathe in the sea. Jane Austen refers to using one of these when she bathed in the sea at Lyme Regis in Dorset.

### *Ball*

A form of evening entertainment consisting of a series of dances. Private balls were held at large houses; Jane Austen attended many balls when she was young and writes about them in her stories.

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## *Bilbocatch*

A child's game which consisted of trying to catch a ball in a cup. The name comes from the French word for the game, Bilboquet. Jane Austen played bilbocatch with her nephews and nieces; she was very good at it.

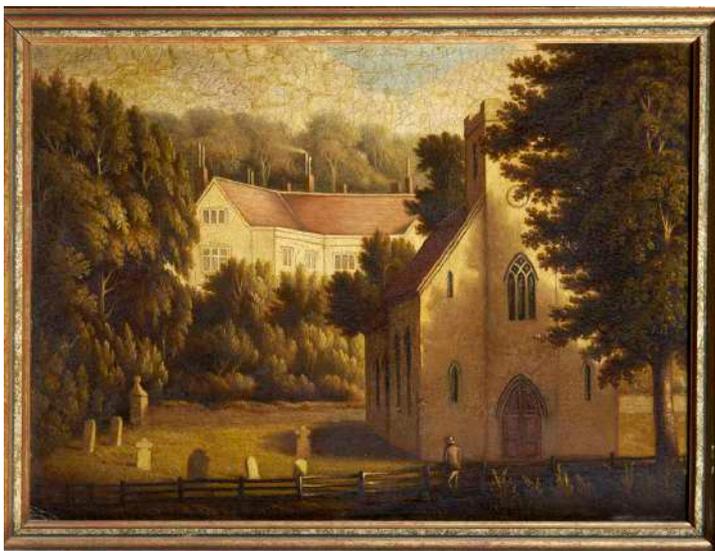
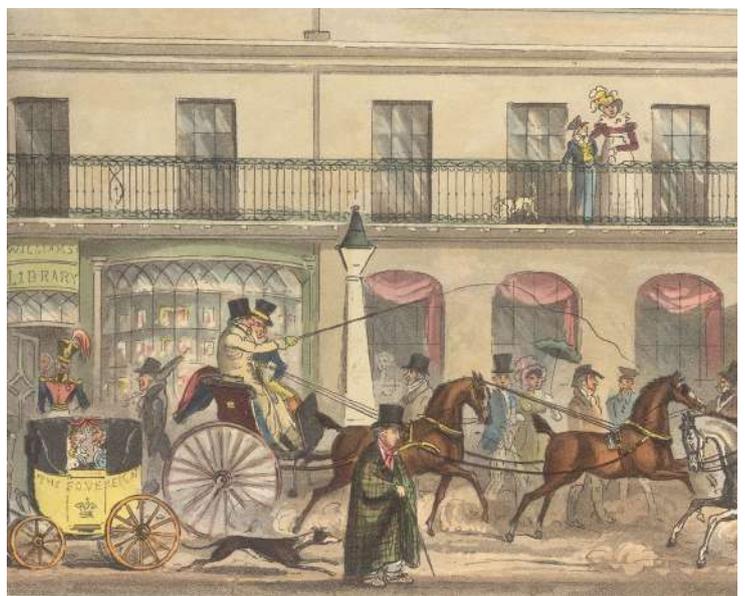


## *Bureau*

An item of furniture with a flat surface used for reading or writing. There is a bureau on display at the museum which belonged to Jane Austen's father, the Reverend George Austen.

## *Carriage*

The main form of transport during Jane Austen's lifetime, powered by horses. There were different types of carriage, as there are different types of car; a person's carriage indicated their social status and income. Only people with money owned carriages; poorer people had to travel by stagecoach, a public form of transport.



## *Clergyman*

A man ordained for religious duties in the Christian church. During Jane Austen's lifetime, only men could be ordained. The main religion in Britain was Christianity. Jane Austen's father was a clergyman and two of her brothers as well. Some of the characters in her novels are clergymen, although not all of them are very likeable!





## *Courtship*

The period of time when a young man and woman begin a relationship prior to engagement and marriage. Austen's novels feature the courtship of male and female characters such as Elizabeth Bennet and Mr Darcy.

## *Etiquette*

Accepted rules of polite behaviour or good manners. During Jane Austen's lifetime, there were strict rules of etiquette, which the characters in her stories don't always follow!

## *Georgian Era*

A period of time when England was under the rule of one of four kings called George. Jane Austen (1775-1817) lived during the reign of King George III (1760-1820).

## *Georgian*

Of the Georgian period.

## *Juvenilia*

Works written during someone's youth. Jane Austen wrote stories in her youth which were never published in her lifetime. They are now known as her 'juvenilia' or teenage writings.

## *Mail coach*

A coach drawn by four horses, run as part of the general postal service. Jane Austen's letters were transported in this way.

## *Militia*

A branch of the Army, which was intended to help protect Britain during wartime. The militia supplemented the regular army. They were often known as redcoats on account of their brightly coloured uniforms. Jane Austen's brother Henry was in the militia, and she features a militia regiment in her novel *Pride and Prejudice*.





## *Navy*

A branch of the Armed Services which performs military operations at sea. The Navy was considered a good profession to enter during Jane Austen's lifetime and offered good opportunities for advancement in rank and wealth. Two of Austen's brothers were naval officers and some of her characters are too. The Navy was very important during Austen's lifetime as it helped to protect Britain from invasion during wartime.

## *Patchwork*

A craft which uses small pieces of fabric sewn together to make an object, for example, a bedcover.

Jane Austen helped make a patchwork bedcover that is on display at the museum.



## *Quill*

A pen made from a feather. During Jane Austen's lifetime, this was the only way in which to write (pens made with steel nibs were not invented until the 1830s). The pen was sharpened into a point at one end, but needed frequent sharpening with a penknife. It was necessary to dip the pen frequently into ink. Jane Austen wrote all her novels and letters in this way.





## *Rectory*

The house of a rector, or clergyman. Jane Austen was born and grew up in a rectory as her father was a rector.

## *Regency*

A period of time (1811-20) which refers to the years when the Prince Regent (son of George III) ruled Britain due to his father's ill-health. Jane Austen's novels were published during these years.

## *Sampler*

A piece of embroidery usually worked by a young girl in order to practise and show off her needlework skills.



## *Seal*

A small object used to seal or close letters with melted wax.

## *Spa town*

A town that has a mineral spring or spa. These towns were popular during Jane Austen's lifetime as people would visit to take the waters for their health. Such towns included Bath in Somerset, Cheltenham in Gloucestershire and Tunbridge Wells in Kent. Jane Austen lived in Bath for a short time and set two of her novels there.





## *Spillikins*

A child's game consisting of a series of tiny sticks made from bone or ivory. The object of the game is to drop the sticks onto a flat surface and pick them up one by one without moving the other sticks. The game is also known as pick-up-sticks or jack-straws.

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## *Stagecoach*

A public form of transport, drawn by four or six horses, able to take six passengers inside and a number of passengers on the roof. Jane Austen did not generally travel by stagecoach as it was thought dangerous for a single woman to travel with strangers. She relied on her brothers' private carriages.

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## *Wagon*

Slow horse-drawn cart which carried heavy goods and luggage.

Jane Austen once referred to wagons from Southampton delivering goods to her home in Chawton.

