

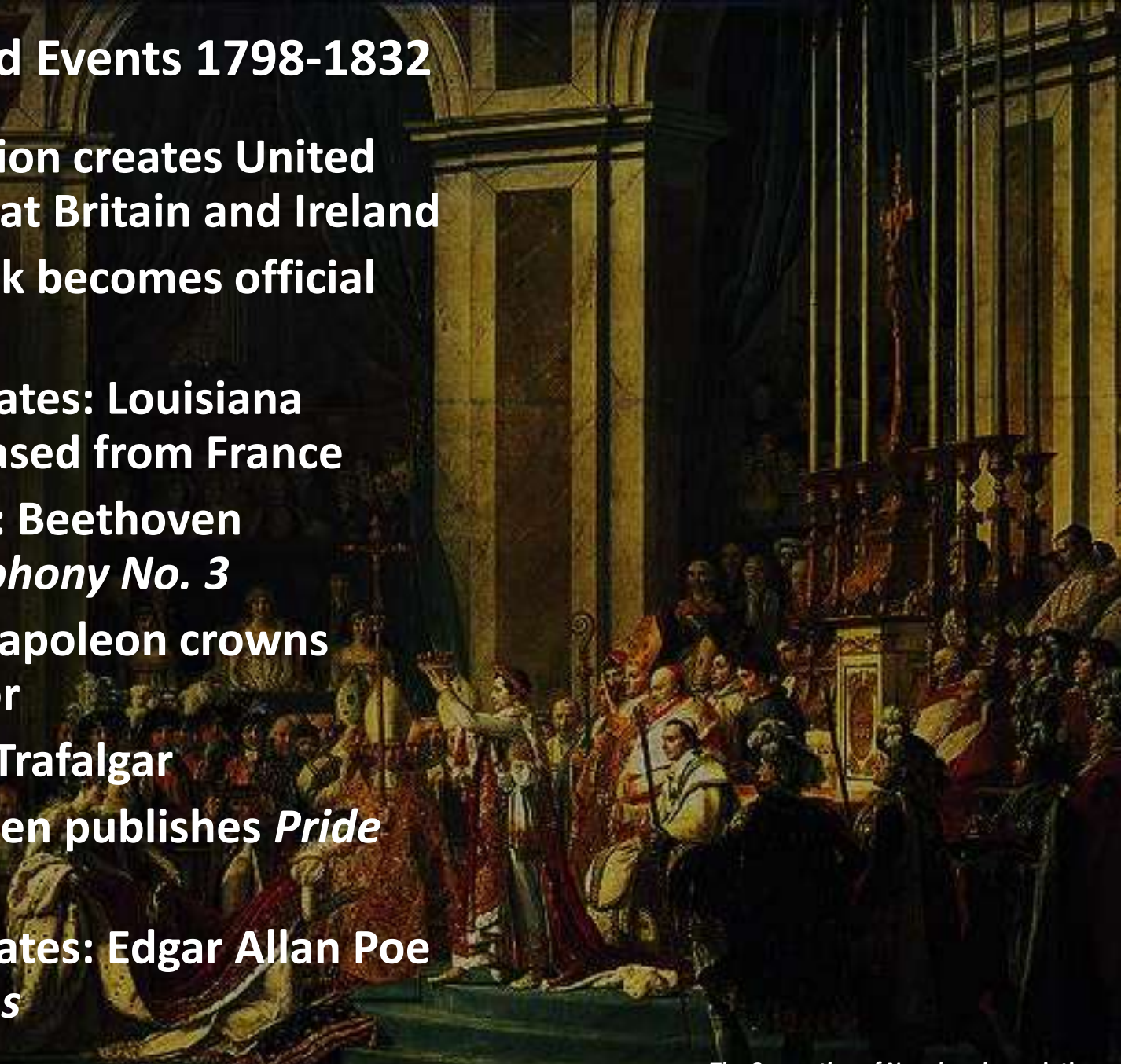
Jane Austen, The Georgian Era,  
and *Pride and Prejudice*



John Constable, *Wivenhoe Park, Essex, 1816*.

# British and World Events 1798-1832

- 1801: Act of Union creates United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland
- 1801: Union Jack becomes official flag
- 1803: United States: Louisiana Territory purchased from France
- 1804: Germany: Beethoven composes *Symphony No. 3*
- 1804: France: Napoleon crowns himself emperor
- 1805: Battle of Trafalgar
- 1813: Jane Austen publishes *Pride and Prejudice*
- 1831: United States: Edgar Allan Poe publishes *Poems*



# Regency Period Research

1. What is the Regency Period? Who was in power in England?
2. How was Austen's world affected by such international developments as the Napoleonic War, the American Revolution, and the French Revolution?
3. What elements of popular culture mark this period? Research styles of dress, art, music, dance, and games.
4. What was the view of women during this time?
5. Who was Mary Wollstonecraft?

## – Suggested Resources:

- <http://www.erasofelegance.com/history/regency.html>
- <http://janeaustensworld.wordpress.com/>
- <http://www.pemberley.com>
- <http://www.lkwdpl.org/lhs/regencyperiod/>



# Explore the following:

- **Classical Music**—for example, Beethoven, Rossini, Schubert, Liszt and Mendelssohn
- **Dance**—Shift in popularity from country dances to the waltz which was considered controversial during Austen's day
- **Art**—David, Turner, Constable
- **History**—Napoleonic Wars, French Revolution, American Revolution (Note that Austen makes no reference to military actions in this novel, although this was a period of great change through war.)
- **Science**—Industrial Revolution, steam locomotion
- **Religion**—the Evangelical movement, mysticism and other trends in religion during the late 18th and early 19th century
- **Other areas**—architecture, fashion, food, sports

The Georgian Era lasted from 1714 to 1830. It is named after the first four British kings from the House of Hanover, George I, George II, George III, and George IV.

Jane Austen (1775-1817) lived entirely in the reign of George III (r. 1760-1820). Around 1811, George III went insane, and his son (later George IV) ruled in his place until the death of his father, a period known as the Regency.



John Constable, *View of Epsom*

Dynasty	Monarch	Years
<b>Tudor</b>	Henry VII	1485-1509
	<b>Henry VIII</b>	<b>1509-1547</b>
	Edward VI	1547-1553
	Mary I	1553-1558
	<b>Elizabeth I</b>	<b>1558-1603</b>
<b>Stuart</b>	<b>James I</b>	<b>1567-1625</b>
	<b>Charles I</b>	<b>1625-1649</b>
<i>None</i>	<i>Interregnum</i>	<i>1649-1660</i>
<b>Stuart</b>	Charles II	1660-1685
	James II	1685-1688
	William III & Mary II	1689-1702
	Anne	1702-1714
<b>Hanover</b>	George I	1714-1727
	George II	1727-1760
	<b>George III</b>	<b>1760-1820</b>
	George IV	1820-1830
	William IV	1830-1837
	<b>Victoria</b>	<b>1837-1901</b>

# George III (r. 1760-1820)

- American War of Independence (1775-1783)
- French Revolution (1789-1799)
- Napoleonic Wars (1803-1815)
- Industrial Revolution (1750-1850)
  - Move from agricultural to urban society
  - Growth of factories and technology

# Neoclassicism:

(mid-eighteenth century the middle of the nineteenth century) classical style; order; Enlightenment/Age of Reason



Jacques-Louis David, *Oath of the Horatii*, 1784

# Romanticism:

(early nineteenth century) emotions painted in a bold, dramatic manner; return to nature; against science and reason



Caspar David Friedrich, *Wanderer Above the Sea of Fog*, 1818



# British Painting of the Late Georgian Era

John Constable and J. M. W. Turner are two of the most important English painters of the late Georgian era. They were both important landscape painters, which was less appreciated than history paintings. However, Turner also painted history paintings, such as his *Battle of Trafalgar*.

J. M. W. Turner, *The Battle of Trafalgar* (1822)

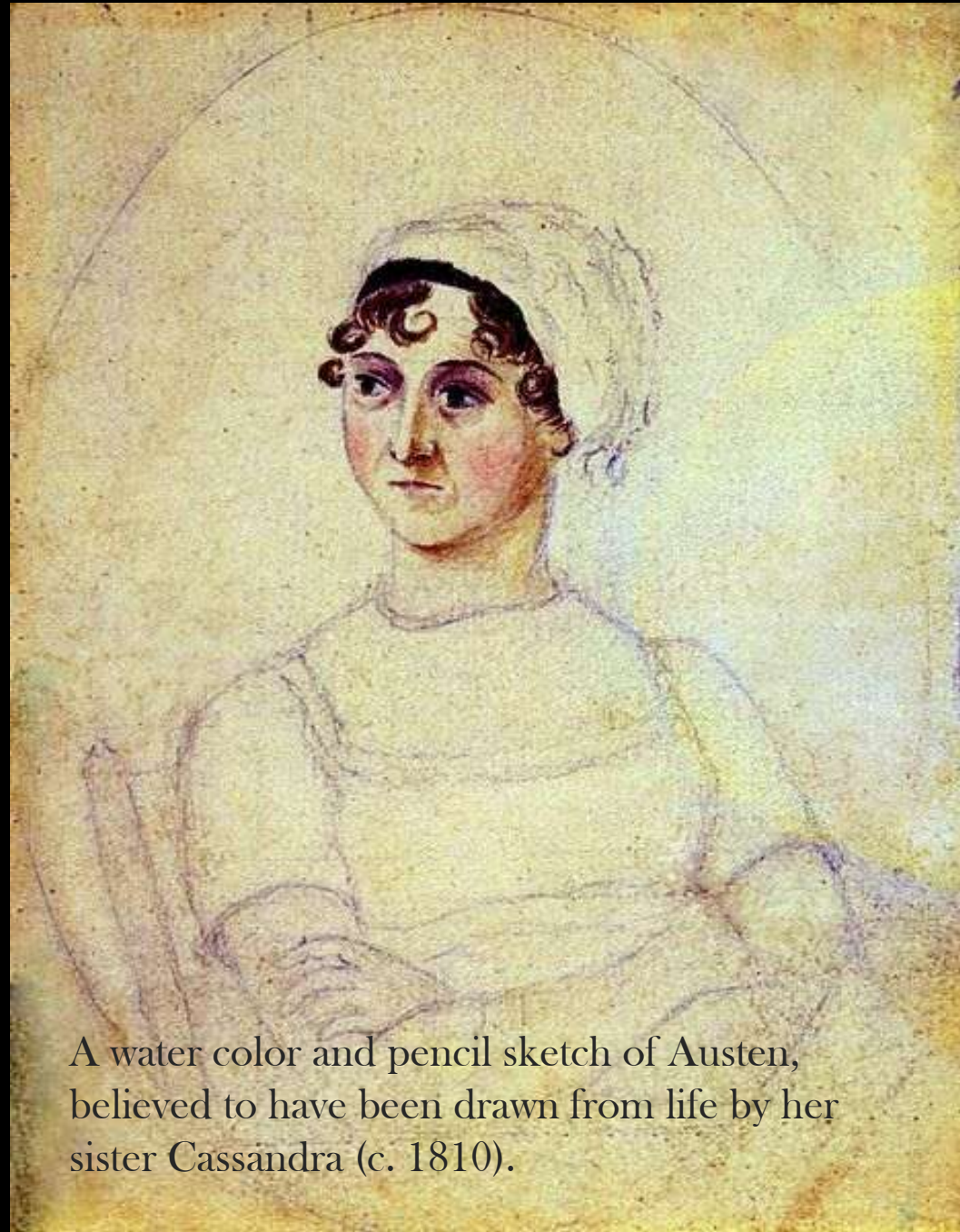


John Constable, *The Hay Wain* (1821)



# Jane Austen (1775-1817)

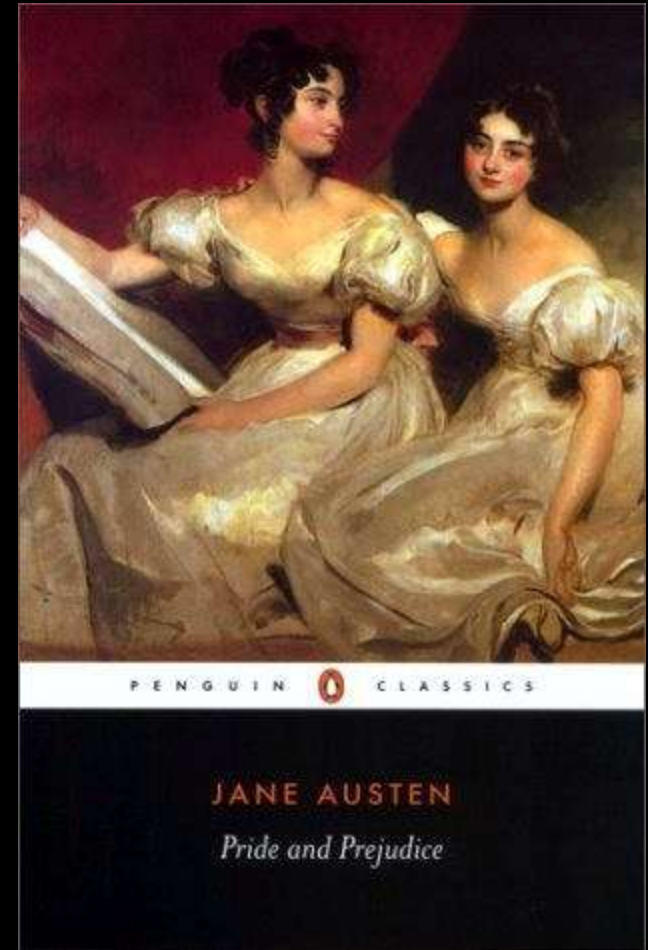
- Born in Steventon, England
- George Austen (father) was the clergyman of the local parish.
- She was educated mostly at home by her father with her seven siblings.
- Her writing began in her teens with parodies and skits to entertain her family.



A water color and pencil sketch of Austen, believed to have been drawn from life by her sister Cassandra (c. 1810).

# Austen's Writings

- *Sense and Sensibility* (1811)
- *Pride and Prejudice* (1813)
- *Mansfield Park* (1814)
- *Emma* (1816)
- *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion* were both published posthumously in 1818.
- She began a another novel, which was eventually titled *Sanditon*, but died before completing it.



# Anonymous Writer

Austen published her novels anonymously, and only her family knew that she was the author of these novels.

- Prevented her from acquiring an authorial reputation, but it enabled her to preserve her privacy.
  - English society associated a female's entrance into the public sphere with a reprehensible loss of femininity.
- Napoleonic Wars (1800-1815) threatened the safety of monarchies throughout Europe, so the government censored literature.

# Writing Style

- “Novels of Manners” critique social customs, conventions, and behaviors of a particular social class at a specific time and place.
- Includes satirical wit (especially in the realities of love and marriage)
  - Satirizes snobs and the poor breeding of the lower social classes.
- Often critical of the assumptions and prejudices of upper-class England.
- Realistic about the lack of social mobility and the awareness of class.
  - Advancement for men: military, church, or law
  - Advancement for women: successful marriage

# *Pride & Prejudice*

- **History:** originally titled *First Impressions* (1796-1797)
  - Rejected by publishers
  - In 1809, Austen began revisions
  - *Pride and Prejudice* published in January 1813
- **Genre:** Comedy of manners (not a tragic ending)
- **Setting:** During Napoleonic Wars (1797-1815) in Longbourn, in rural England
  - Netherfield Park, Bingley's residence
  - Pemberly House, Darcy's Estate
  - The Derbyshire countryside
  - Rosings, the home of Lady Catherine
- **Themes:** Love, Reputation, Class



John Constable, *Salisbury Cathedral from the Bishop's Grounds*, 1823.

# Characters

Narrator: Third-person omniscient

Point of View: Elizabeth Bennet (primarily)

Protagonist: Elizabeth Bennet

Antagonist: Snobbish class-consciousness (epitomized by Lady Catherine de Bourgh and Miss Bingley)

# Characters: Bennet Family

- **Elizabeth Bennet**—protagonist, the second of five daughters; pragmatic and independent; her father's favorite
- **Miss Jane Bennet**—Elizabeth's older sister; wants to see the best in everyone;
- **Mary Bennett**—the plain, bookish middle sister
- **Miss Catherine (Kitty) Bennett**—easily led and shallow fourth daughter
- **Lydia Bennet**—the youngest sister, flirty and undisciplined
- **Mr. Bennet**—their father, cynical and permissive
- **Mrs. Bennet**—their mother, whose main goal is to find husbands for her daughters

# Characters: Bennet Friends

- **Charlotte Lucas**—Elizabeth's best friend
- **Sir William and Mrs. Lucas**—The Bennets' neighbors
- **Mr. Collins**—the Bennet girls' overbearing cousin, a priggish clergyman who stands to inherit Longbourn, the Bennets' entailed estate
- **The Gardiners**—Mrs. Bennet's brother and sister-in-law who live in London
- **George Wickham**—an attractive militia officer stationed near the Bennets

# Characters: Bingley Family & Friends

- **Mr. Charles Bingley**—unmarried, wealthy young man who has leased nearby Netherfield
- **Miss Caroline Bingley**—Mr. Bingley's sister
- **Mrs. Hurst**—Bingley's married sister
- **Mr. Hurst**—Bingley's brother-in-law
- **Mr. Fitzwilliam Darcy**—Bingley's prideful, wealthy friend
- **Miss Darcy**—Darcy's sister
- **Col. Fitzwilliam**—a relation of Darcy whose status as second son leaves him with little wealth
- **Lady Catherine de Bourgh**—a condescending wealthy snob; patron of Collins; aunt of Darcy

# Character Cards

1. Elizabeth Bennet
2. Miss Jane Bennet
3. Miss Catherine  
(Kitty) Bennet
4. Lydia Bennet
5. Mr. Bennet
6. Mrs. Bennet
7. Charlotte Lucas
8. Mr. Collins
9. George Wickham
10. Mr. Charles Bingley
11. Mr. Fitzwilliam  
Darcy
12. Lady Catherine de  
Bourgh

# Character Cards

Character Name  
(First, Last, Nickname)



Relationships

Actions/Words

Thoughts/Others' Thoughts

Qualities

As you read, *focus* on the actions and words of the character. Write their **name** on the front with a visual example, and on the back add **actions, words, qualities, relationships** (especially to Elizabeth Bennet).

# Vocab Cards

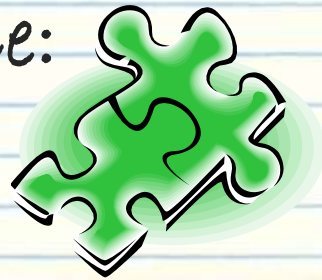
Back

Definition:

Synonym/Antonym:

Original Sentence:

Visual Example:



Front

vocabulary word

Part of Speech

# Vocab Cards Example

Back

Definition: puzzled; confused

Synonym/Antonym: bewildered, enlightened

Original Sentence: He looked perplexed by the questions on the test.

Visual Example:



Front

Perplexed

Adj. (adjective)



# *Pride & Prejudice* Research:

1. **Pride and Prejudice Economics: Or Why a Single Man with a Fortune of £4,000 Per Year is a Desirable Husband**

<http://janeaustensworld.wordpress.com/2008/02/10/the-economics-of-pride-and-prejudice-or-why-a-single-man-with-a-fortune-of-4000-per-year-is-a-desirable-husband/>

2. **A Pride and Prejudice Gazetteer : A Guide to the Real and Imagined Places in the Novel**

<http://www.pemberley.com/images/landt/maps/pp/Cary-1812-Eng-map.html>

3. **JASNA: Where's Where in Jane Austen's Novels**

<http://www.jasna.org/info/maps.html>

4. **The History of the Novel**

<http://www.nvcc.edu/home/ataormina/novels/history/default.htm>

1



2



3



4



## Pre-Reading Questions:

1. First impressions are often wrong.
2. Children are rarely justified in being embarrassed by their parents.
3. Parents should have some say about whom their children marry.
4. Families should be concerned with what others think.
5. Love at first sight is a common occurrence.
6. People communicate more effectively in the twenty-first century than they did during the nineteenth century.
7. “Happiness in marriage is entirely a matter of chance” (Charlotte, 21).
8. Playing “hard to get” is useful in attracting members of the opposite sex.
9. People are happiest when they marry within their own social class.