

Happy Birthday, Jane Austen!



First [watch the Time Tunnellers video](#) celebrating Jane Austen's life and 250th birthday.

Background: Jane Austen (1775-1817) is one of the world's most celebrated novelists.

Though her formal schooling stopped at the age of 11, she was educated at home and allowed to borrow books from her father's library. This led to a love of reading and then of creative writing. Short stories as a teenager read aloud to her family and friends. Then novels as an adult, six of which were eventually published, including such classics as *Pride and Prejudice*, *Sense and Sensibility* and *Emma*. Since her death in 1817, Jane Austen's work has sold millions of copies, been translated into many languages and also adapted for countless television and film productions.

Writing and illustrating task:

Design a Happy 250th Birthday card to send back in time to the 11-year-old Jane. Besides your birthday greetings, to encourage her to carry on with her writing include a paragraph or two sharing a little of what you know about Jane's later successes. You might also want to tell her about your own favourite book and author.

Tips: Think about what might encourage *you* to work hard at something. The approval of your family and friends, perhaps? Or some sort of future reward?

If you decide to include anything about Jane's books being turned into films and tv shows, remember, they wouldn't have existed in Jane's time, so you will need to explain to her what they are!