

A Timeline Comparison

Jane West	Jane Austen
April 30, 1758 born Jane Iliffe (only child) in London	
	Dec. 16, 1775 Born the seventh of eight children (and second daughter), in Steventon, Hampshire
c. 1780 (age 22) marries yeoman farmer Thomas West, in Little Bowden, Leicestershire	
1783 (age 25) her first son is born, Thomas	
1786 (age 28) publishes first book, <i>Miscellaneous Poetry, Written at an Early Period of Life</i> , as "Mrs. West"	
1787 (age 29) second son born	1787 (age 11) Begins writing juvenilia
1788 (age 30) publishes <i>The Humours of Brighthelmstone: A Poem</i> , as "J. West"	
	1790 (age 14) Writes <i>Love and Freindship</i>
1791 (age 33) Publishes <i>Miscellaneous Poems and a Tragedy</i> , as "Mrs. West"	
1793 (age 35) publishes first novel, <i>The Advantages of Education</i> , by "Prudentia Homespun"	
1794 (age 36) third son is born	1794 (age 18) Possibly begins writing <i>Lady Susan</i>
	1795 (age 19) Possibly begins writing <i>Elinor and Marianne</i> (which becomes <i>Sense and Sensibility</i>)
1796 (age 38) publishes <i>A Gossip's Story and a Legendary Tale</i> , most successful novel	1796-97 (ages 20-21) Begins writing <i>First Impressions</i> (which becomes <i>Pride and Prejudice</i>)

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<p>1797 (age 39) Publishes <i>An Elegy on the Death of the Right Honourable Edmund Burke</i>, byline as “Mrs. West, author of <i>The Gossip’s Story</i>, <i>Miscellaneous Poems, a Tragedy, &c.</i>”</p>	<p>1797 (age 21) Begins revising <i>Elinor and Marianne</i> (which becomes <i>Sense and Sensibility</i>)</p>
	<p>1798 (age 22) Possibly begins writing <i>Susan</i> (which becomes <i>Northanger Abbey</i>)</p>
<p>1799 (age 41) Her busiest year as a writer! Publishes her third novel, first two volumes of <i>Poems and Plays</i>, and another poem in five books; general custom hereafter publishing as “Mrs. West”</p>	
<p>1801 (age 43) Publishes highly successful conduct book, <i>Letters Addressed to a Young Man on his first Entrance into Life</i></p>	<p>1801 (age 25) Moves to Bath</p>
<p>1802 (age 44) Publishes novel, <i>The Infidel Father</i>, as “Mrs. West” and a short children’s book <i>The Sorrows of Selfishness; or, The History of Miss Richmore</i> by “Prudentia Homespun”</p>	<p>Dec. 2, 1802 (age 26, almost 27) Accepts Harris Bigg-Wither’s marriage proposal</p> <p>Dec. 3, 1802 (age 26, almost 27) Rejects Harris Bigg-Wither’s marriage proposal</p>
	<p>1803 (age 27) Sells <i>Susan</i> (later <i>Northanger Abbey</i>) to a publisher, but it remains unpublished.</p>
	<p>1804 (age 28) Most likely begins writing <i>The Watsons</i></p>
<p>1805 (age 47) Publishes <i>Poems and Plays</i>, volumes three and four</p>	<p>1805 (age 29) Jane Austen’s father dies</p> <p>Finishes writing <i>Lady Susan</i></p>
<p>1806 (age 48) Publishes another conduct book, <i>Letters to a Young Lady, in which the Duties and Character of Women are Considered, Chiefly with a Reference to Prevailing Opinions</i> (dedicated to Queen Charlotte)</p>	

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	<p>1809 (age 33) Moves to Chawton Cottage, in Hampshire</p> <p>Further revision of <i>Sense and Sensibility</i></p>
<p>1810 (age 52) Publishes another novel, <i>The Refusal</i>, “posthumously” by Prudentia Homespun</p>	
	<p>Oct. 1811 (age 35) <i>Sense and Sensibility</i> published anonymously “By a Lady”</p>
<p>1812 (age 54) Publishes an historical novel, <i>The Loyalists</i></p>	<p>1811-13 (age 35-37) Writing <i>Mansfield Park</i>, revising <i>Pride and Prejudice</i></p>
	<p>Jan. 1813 (age 37) <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> published anonymously as “By the Author of <i>Sense and Sensibility</i>”</p> <p>Oct. 1813 (age 37) Second editions of <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> and <i>Sense and Sensibility</i> published</p>
<p>1814 (age 56) Publishes an historical romance, <i>Alicia de Lacy</i></p>	<p>May 1814 (age 38) <i>Mansfield Park</i> published anonymously (“by the author of...”)</p> <p>Sept. 28, 1814 (age 38) Writes letter to niece Anna Lefroy: “I am quite determined however not to be pleased with Ms West’s <i>Alicia de Lacy</i>, should I ever meet with it, which I hope I may not. — I think I can be stout against any thing written by Mrs West.— I have made up my mind to like novels really, but Miss Edgeworth’s, Yours & my own.”</p>
	<p>1814-15 (age 38-39) Writing <i>Emma</i></p>
	<p>1815-16 (age 39-40) Writing <i>The Elliots</i> (which becomes <i>Persuasion</i>)</p>
<p>1815 (age 57) Publishes anonymously <i>Vicissitudes of Life; Exemplified in the Interesting Memoirs of a Young Lady, in a Series of Letters</i></p>	<p>Dec. 1815 (age 40) <i>Emma</i> published anonymously (“by the author of...”), dedicated to the Prince Regent</p>

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	<p>1816 (age 40) Second edition of <i>Mansfield Park</i> published</p> <p>Sept. 1816 (age 40) Writes letter to Cassandra: "I often wonder how you can find time for what you do, in addition to the care of the house; and how good Mrs. West could have written such books and collected so many hard works, with all her family cares, is still more a matter of astonishment!"</p>
<p>1817 (age 59) Publishes <i>Scriptural Essays Adapted to the Holy Days of the Church of England</i></p>	<p>Jan.-March 1817 (age 41) Works on <i>The Brothers</i> (which becomes <i>Sanditon</i>)</p> <p>July 18, 1817 (age 41) Dies in Winchester</p> <p>Dec. 1817 <i>Northanger Abbey</i> and <i>Persuasion</i> published together, posthumously, with a biographical note by her brother Henry naming Austen for the first time as the author of these novels</p>
<p>1823 (age 65) Husband Thomas West dies</p>	
<p>1827 (age 69) Publishes her final novel, <i>Ringrove, or, Old Fashioned Notions</i></p>	
	<p>1833 Richard Bentley publishes Austen's collected works; her work will never go out of print again.</p>
<p>1843 (age 85) Eldest son dies</p>	
<p>1852 (age 94) Dies in her home in Little Bowden, outliving all three sons, leaving 6 grandchildren</p>	

References:

- "Jane West: Chronology" in *A Gossip's Story, and A Legendary Tale* (1796), edited by Devony Looser, Melinda O'Connell, and Caitlin Kelly. Valancourt, 2016.
- "[A Jane Austen Chronology](#)." *The Victorian Web*, July 2000.
- "[Jane Austen Timeline](#)," *JaneAusten.org*, 2018.
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