Chronology

1775  On 16 December, Jane Austen, the seventh of eight children of George and Cassandra Austen, is born in Steventon, England.

1778  James Gillray is admitted to the Royal Academy to study engraving. His tenure overlaps that of William Blake. The majority of Gillray's satirical engravings appeared between 1793 and 1810.

1783  Austen's brother Edward is formally adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Knight, wealthy distant cousins.

1793  French Revolutionary War with England begins; France and England are at war almost continuously until the Battle of Waterloo in 1815.

1794  The husband of Austen's cousin Eliza is guillotined in Paris; Eliza marries Austen's brother Henry in 1797.

1794-95  Austen writes *Lady Susan*.

1796  Earliest letter to Cassandra (15–16 September) in the Morgan's collection.

1801  Austen family moves to Bath, the preeminent resort town in England.

1803  Austen sells copyright for *Northanger Abbey* (then titled "Susan") to Benjamin Crosby, a London publisher, for £10. He never published it.

1804  Austen starts drafting *The Watsons*, an unfinished novel.

1805  Austen's father dies.

1809  Austen settles at Chawton Cottage on her brother Edward's estate.

1811  *Sense and Sensibility* published. George III declared insane, the prince of Wales (future George IV) becomes prince regent.

1813  *Pride and Prejudice* published.

1814  *Mansfield Park* published.

1816  *Emma* published and dedicated to the prince regent at his request.

1817  Austen begins work on "The Brothers" (later *Sanditon*) but cannot finish due to her worsening illness. On 18 July Jane Austen dies and is buried at Winchester Cathedral.

1818  *Northanger Abbey and Persuasion* are published posthumously with a biographic note by Austen's brother Henry. The note announces, for the first time, that Jane Austen is the author of these works.

1869  James Edward Austen-Leigh publishes a biography of his "dear Aunt Jane" entitled *A Memoir of Jane Austen*.


1979  The Jane Austen Society of North America is founded.

1995  Colin Firth plays Mr. Darcy in the BBC/A&E film version of *Pride and Prejudice*. Ang Lee's film of *Sense and Sensibility* is nominated for an Oscar for best picture; Emma Thompson wins an Oscar for best adapted screenplay.

2007  *Becoming Jane*, the first feature film inspired by Austen’s life and letters, is released.

2009  *Later Manuscripts*, the ninth and final volume of the Cambridge edition of the works of Jane Austen is published.