



Introduction and Objectives

The "Immersed in Austen" unit is an integrated unit for use on any level grades 9-12, although Austen is most often taught in a British Literature class on the 12th grade level. This unit has a wealth of information for independent as well as corporate study. Faith and learning information and activities are located throughout, particularly in the individual book segments. Music and art activities are also included in this portion of the unit, particularly in the follow-up activities.

The unit can be as long or as short as you like. It could be taught as a focused 9-weeks class, part of a women's writer's class, or within a year-long study of British literature. You could require students to read all six novels and do all the novel mini-units, or you could divide your class up have have them do one or two books, or work in groups. The material lends itself to just about any configuration you would like to use.

The six internet resource pages include other lesson plans, study guides, readers' guides, teachers' guides, on-line articles about Austen, blogs, and many other excellent sources of ideas and information for teachers and students. I found Lori Smith's book *A Walk with Jane Austen* particularly interesting and inspiring for the Christian reader. The two related websites show us how travel can enhance our understanding of an author and her works, and how an author can inspire us with her life and stories.

Students spending any length of time studying Jane Austen and one or more of her works should emerge from the immersion understanding more about life in Regency England, but also more about themselves, their relationships, and ultimately what they as young people can and should do to prepare themselves for life after high school. Their reading comprehension should improve; their critical reading, writing, and thinking skills should increase; and their communication skills should expand as they apply their learning to a variety of technological processes along side the traditional pen and paper.