

Summary

The Georgian period is a fascinating, yet often overlooked, era of History. Although the period has often been popular, due to the ease with which it is romanticised, it is equally as often misunderstood due to such romanticism.

The Georgian period is rich in culture and societal change, taking place alongside the Industrial Revolution and the rise of Parliament and politics as we know them today.

This scheme aims to give you an insight into the complexities of the Georgian period; what were the daily lives of both the ‘Bon Ton’ and the working class like? To what extent did Parliament ‘rise’ during this period?

Key people/events/places

George I: King of Great Britain and Ireland from 1st August 1714 until 1727.

George II: King of Great Britain and Ireland from 1727 until 1760.

George III: King of Great Britain and Ireland from 1760 until 1820.

George IV: King of Great Britain and Ireland from 1820 until 1830.

Peterloo Massacre: A political demonstration in 1819 in Manchester that resulted in violence from the authorities.

Brighton: A popular ‘Ton’ coastal holiday destination.

Bath: A popular ‘Ton’ mineral water destination.

Pleasure Gardens: a popular form of entertainment for the ‘Ton’ and working class alike.



Key Vocabulary

Whig – a political party that wanted reform (change)

Tory – a political party that did not want change

Politics – the activities related to the running of a country

Monarch – the king or queen

The Season – The time when Parliament met and the ‘Ton’ families gathered in London

Debutante – a ‘Ton’ woman making her first appearance into polite society to find a husband

Dowry – an amount of property or money given to a husband on marrying a wife

Aristocracy – the highest class in society

The ‘Ton’ – the name for the Georgian aristocracy

Taking the Waters – when Georgians would swim, bathe, or drink in ocean or natural water to benefit their health

Pollution – a harmful substance that has poisonous effects introduced to the environment

Constituency – a group of voters in a specified area

Rotten Borough – a borough that was able to elect an MP despite having very few constituents

Representation – being spoken or acted for by an MP

Challenge

This scheme aims to show the difference between what it was like to be a member of the elite versus a member of the working class. However, can you find any **similarities**?

