

Julius Caesar

Young Patrician

- Born in Rome
- Came from a noble family which meant he was eligible for election to Rome's highest offices.
- As a child, Caesar went to the Forum to learn from the era's most talented orators.

Blood in the Streets

- Civil War – fighting in the streets of Rome: General **Sulla**(representing the elite in the Senate) against General **Marius**(representing the common people and poorer classes; uncle of Caesar through marriage)
- In 82 B.C., General Sulla seizes control and is named dictator by the Senate; he orders the deaths of 9,000 of his enemies.
- Caesar in danger because he is married to daughter of Sulla's archenemy.

Young Hero

- Caesar gets his first taste of war in 80B.C. when he was sent to subdue a rebellious Greek city.
- He wins a Civic Crown for saving the life of a fellow Roman citizen.
- Caesar showed his courage – and his cruelty – when he was kidnapped by pirates in 75 B.C. He joked with his captors and later, after he had been freed, hunted them down and had them executed.

Blood Sports

- As aedile, Caesar was responsible for keeping the streets orderly and providing entertainment for the Roman masses.
- He goes into debt organizing large scale blood sports and lavish spectacles including exotic animals from Africa.

Triple Threat

- In 60B.C., Caesar organizes an unstoppable alliance consisting of Pompey, Crassus and himself.
- Caesar had the love of the commoners, Pompey was a military hero, and Crassus was very wealthy.

Consul for One Year

- Caesar elected Consul in 59 B.C.
- eased crowding by giving land outside the city to the poor;
- cut taxes
- Pompey's soldiers given small farms after years of loyal service;
- anti-corruption legislation to stop governors from excessively profiting from their offices in the provinces;

On the Warpath

- Desiring riches, military glory and an army loyal to him, Caesar serves for years as military commander in Gaul;
- Brutal campaigns against the Germanic tribes; Caesar is relentless, a skilled tactician and makes brilliant use of engineering, including siege towers to break into Gallic towns that resisted Roman rule.
- Caesar writes his Commentaries on the campaigns in Gaul; noteworthy for the beauty of his prose, Caesar also praises his own brilliance in battle;

Crossing the Rubicon

- After Caesar's victories in Gaul, the Senate and Pompey order him to give up command of his troops before entering Rome. Caesar still has many enemies in Rome because of his work as consul.
- Feeling forced into a painful choice, on January 10, 49 B.C. Caesar defies the Senate and leads his army across the Rubicon River and into the Roman heartland. The act was essentially a declaration of war.
- Pompey shocked and not prepared to defend the city; he is pursued to Greece where he is finally defeated by Caesar; Pompey flees to Egypt where he was betrayed and beheaded by pharaoh, Ptolemy XIII.
- Caesar spends three months with Cleopatra in Egypt;

Queen Cleopatra

- Ambitious sister of Pharaoh
- In 48 B.C., Cleopatra smuggled herself into Caesar's headquarters to ask him to help her take the throne of Egypt from her brother Ptolemy;
- Affair with Caesar, has child;

Massive Celebrations

- Caesar holds a ten day celebration of his many triumphs;
- Elaborate ceremonial parades and free feasts;
- Abundant spectacles, including 440 lions set loose in a stadium and then killed; a small lake created to re-enact famous sea battles;

Down to Business

- To help foster loyalty inside Rome's rapidly expanding borders, he granted citizenship to residents of many provinces;
- Brought order to the city by strict enforcement and increased penalties for theft and murder;

Down to Business

- Massive building projects that created thousands of new jobs;
- New colonies in three of Rome's provinces: Carthage, Corinth and Seville.
- Free land for veterans and poor Romans

Consolidates Power

- enlarged Senate to make room for more of his supporters;
- 45 B.C., demands senators make him dictator for life;
- absolute power-controlled army and treasury; free to hand-pick consuls, overturn Senate and Assembly rulings, and order executions;
- Behaved like a king – presided from golden throne, minted coins with his image, purple togas(color of royalty), ivory statue of himself;

Plot

- Senators, fearing Caesar would become king and hoping to preserve the republic, plot to assassinate Caesar;
- including Marcus Brutus and Gaius Cassius;

Death of Caesar

- lured to the Senate floor, Caesar is repeatedly slashed and stabbed 23 times by the conspirators;