



## Julius Caesar

One of the most famous rulers of Ancient Rome was Julius Caesar. He was born in July 100BC and died 56 years later in 44BC.

When Caesar was born, his family were already very important. They were very influential in Roman politics, and Julius Caesar soon rose through the ranks. In 58BC he was appointed governor of Roman Gaul. Roman Gaul was an area of Western Europe. By the time Caesar returned home 8 years later, he had added France and Belgium to the Roman Empire. He had also made the empire safe from invasion by the Gauls.

In 55BC and 54BC, Caesar tried to invade England. He failed on the first attempt but succeeded on the second. The British leaders joined forces, but Britain was never conquered. Instead, it agreed to follow Roman politics.

Rome had been ruled by a government made up of senators, and the senators wanted it to stay that way. When he returned from Britain, Caesar became fed up with this arrangement and started to defy their rules. Eventually, this led to a war between the Roman Republic and Caesar's army. Caesar won the war. The Roman leader at the time, Pompey, fled to Egypt.

Caesar decided to follow Pompey to Egypt, where he met and fell in love with Queen Cleopatra. He loved her so much that he helped her to regain the throne in Egypt.

Once Julius Caesar was in control of Rome, he decided he wanted to keep it forever. He used his power to make lots of changes in Rome. He cancelled lots of debts, made the senate bigger and changed the calendar. The Julian calendar was a big change for the world and was named in his honour. We still use parts of it today. The month of July was named after him as well.

When he took the role of dictator, it was supposed to be temporary. However, in 44BC, he decided he wanted the position for life. This annoyed lots of powerful senators who vowed to take revenge.

They didn't have to wait long for revenge. Julius Caesar was assassinated by a group of senators

while attending the senate.

Caesar had a long-lasting impact on Rome and the world. The changes he'd made were very hard to undo. Lots of people were angry that he had been removed and a new civil war began. At the end of the war, Caesar's great-nephew Octavian was made emperor, the first in Rome. He took the name Emperor Augustus.



## INFERENCE FOCUS

1. What helped Caesar to progress quickly in politics?
2. Why did Caesar follow Pompey to Egypt?
3. Why did Caesar make himself dictator for life?
4. How did most people feel about Caesar? How do you know?

## VIPERS QUESTIONS

**V**

Which word or phrase tells you that Caesar's family had lots of power?

**E**

Why is this report written in chronological order? What effect does it have?

**V**

Which word or phrase tells you that Caesar didn't listen to the senate?

**S**

What did Caesar do after he'd visited Britain for the second time?

**R**

For how long was Caesar in Roman Gaul?

Answers:

1. His family was powerful
2. He wanted to capture him
3. He liked the power
4. They liked him. They were angry when he was killed.

V: Influential

E: It helps the reader to understand the order in which things happened

V: Defy

S: Returned to Italy and started a civil war

R: 8 years