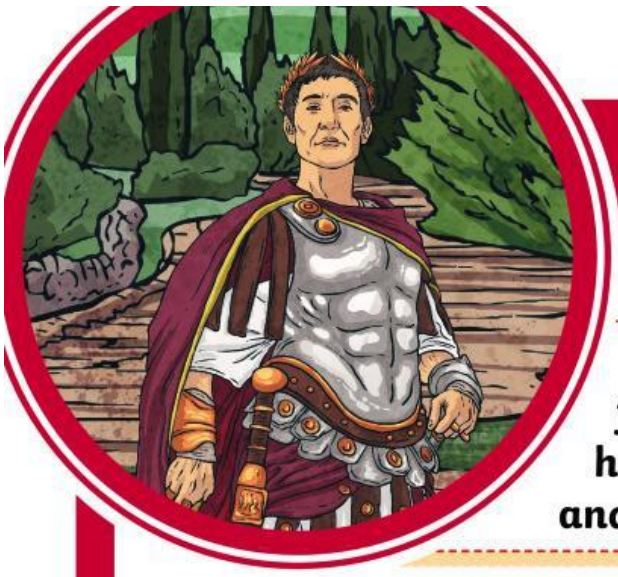


Julius Caesar

Julius Caesar is one of the most famous Romans in history and had a large impact on the shape of ancient Rome.

Early Life

Gaius Julius Caesar was born around 100 BC in Rome, Italy. His family were part of the Roman nobility. Even though they had a high rank, Caesar's family were not very wealthy and didn't have much influence in politics.

At the age of 16, Caesar found himself the head of the family after the death of his father. A year later, he married Cornelia and they had a daughter named Julia. The ruler of the Romans, Sulla, ordered Caesar to divorce Cornelia as she was a daughter of his enemies. He refused and went into hiding.

Political Life

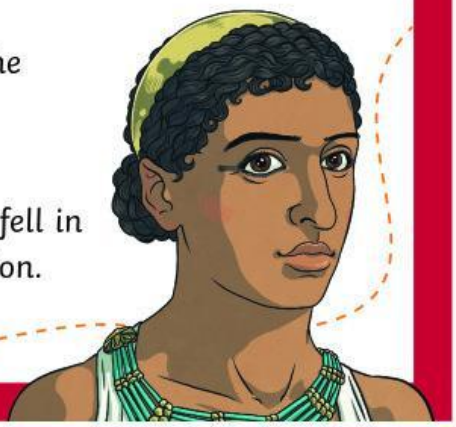
After Sulla's death in 78 BC, Caesar returned to Rome as a lawyer. He was very successful and later, he rose in rank to become a **quaestor** of a Roman province in 69 BC

In 61 BC, Caesar was elected as governor of Spain. This was a very high position and he won a series of battles there as well.

In 59 BC, Caesar was elected as a senior Roman **consul**, allowing him to have more control over much of Rome.

In 58 BC, Caesar was elected governor of Gaul, where he commanded a large army and he became known as a strong leader.

In 48 BC, Caesar travelled to Egypt, where he met and fell in love with Queen Cleopatra and they had a son, Caesarion.



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Ruling Rome

After many battles against his enemies in the Middle East, Africa and Spain, Caesar returned to Rome and, in 46 BC, declared himself the ruler of the Romans. During his rule, he made many changes such as:

- increasing the size of the **Senate**
- supporting military veterans
- granting Roman citizenship to all those in Roman lands

Many people were not happy with Caesar's rule and, in 44 BC, he was killed by a group of senators who feared his control. Caesar's successor was his grand-nephew Octavian (later known as Augustus Caesar), who became the first emperor of Rome.

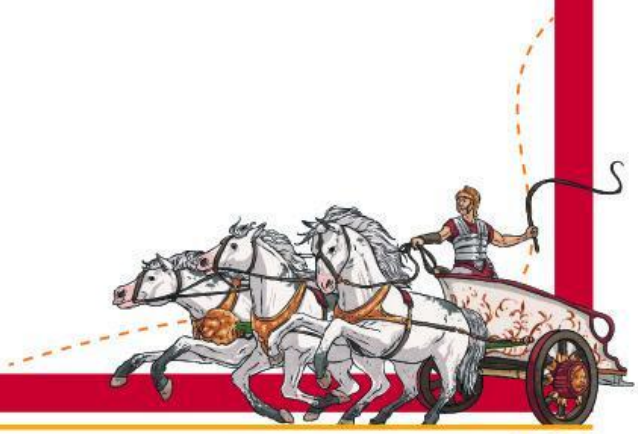
Did You Know...?
The month of 'July' is named after Caesar. It was renamed in his honour after his death.

Glossary

quaestor – an official in charge of public spending.

consul – the highest political office in Rome.

Senate – the council of the Roman Republic, similar to a government.



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Questions

1. What is Julius Caesar's full name?

   _____

2. When was Caesar born? Tick one.

   - ○ 10 BC
   - ○ 100 BC
   - ○ AD 10
   - ○ AD 100

3. Which of these people was **not** a member of Caesar's family? Tick one.

   - ○ Julia
   - ○ Cornelia
   - ○ Sulla
   - ○ Caesarion

4. Match the year to the event in Caesar's life.

69 BC	Caesar went to Egypt.
61 BC	Caesar was elected as governor of Gaul.
58 BC	Caesar was elected governor of Spain.
48 BC	Caesar became a quaestor.

5. Which month is named after Caesar? Tick one.

   - ○ January
   - ○ June
   - ○ July
   - ○ October

6. Fill in the missing words.

   After many battles against his enemies in the Middle East, _____ and Spain, Caesar returned to _____ and, in 46 BC, declared himself the ruler of the Romans.

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