

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Gaius Julius Caesar

Before reading

1 Guess

Why do you think Julius Caesar is better known than other Roman leaders? Think of three reasons.

While reading

2 Comprehension

Read the definitions and find the words or names in the text.

- 1 A country which elects its leaders = a _____
- 2 Two people who controlled the government and army, elected annually = the _____
- 3 Three hundred aristocratic men who kept their positions for life = the _____
- 4 Ordinary Roman men who voted and chose the Consuls = the _____
- 5 An elected officer in the Roman army who could give commands = _____
- 6 The political partnership that included Crassus, Pompey and Julius = the _____
- 7 A region which now includes parts of modern-day France, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and Switzerland = _____
- 8 Someone with complete power over a country = a _____

3 Comprehension

Put these events in the correct order. Write 1–12 in the spaces.

- _____ Julius starts works for the government as a lawyer.
- _____ Julius fights in a civil war against Pompey.
- _____ Julius is selected to join the Senate.
- _____ Julius is awarded a civic crown while serving in the Roman army.
- _____ Julius is assassinated in front of the Senate building.
- _____ Julius expands Roman territory in the north.
- _____ Julius defeats the Egyptian army.
- _____ Julius raises a private army to hold back invaders in Asia Minor.
- _____ Julius becomes financial officer in Spain.
- _____ Julius joins the political partnership known as the Triumvirate.
- _____ Julius is captured by pirates.
- _____ Julius is elected Consul.

4 Comprehension and writing

Make notes on the following topics:

- 1 What Julius learned from his father

- 2 Julius's skills and abilities

- 3 Julius's personality

- 4 Julius's ambitions

- 5 Julius's victories

After reading

5 Language

Choose the correct word to complete the sentences.

- 1 Sulla wanted to have Caesar *executed* / *pardoned*.
- 2 Pirates demanded a *ransom* / *fleet* for Caesar's release.
- 3 Caesar was given a *role* / *seat* in the Senate in 68 BCE.
- 4 Caesar went on two brief *expeditions* / *chariots* to Britain.
- 5 Pompey ordered Caesar to pass *command* / *rebellion* of his soldiers on to Pompey.
- 6 Caesar *conquered* / *defeated* more lands while returning from Egypt.

6 Follow-up activity

Write your own sentences using the words not used in activity 5 above. Your sentences can be about Caesar's story, but you mustn't copy sentences from the story.

7 Research

Find out more Caesar's written works, *The Gallic Wars* or *Commentarii de Bello Gallico*. Make notes under these headings:

- How the text is organized
- Why Caesar wrote it
- Style of writing
- How honest an account it is

ANSWER KEY (STUDENT ACTIVITIES)

Gaius Julius Caesar

1 Guess

Answers will vary. Suggested answers:

- He was very powerful
- He was very successful
- He was very violent and determined
- He was the first of many Roman dictators
- 'July' is named after him because of his influence over our modern calendar

2 Comprehension

- 1 republic
- 2 Consul
- 3 Senate
- 4 Assembly
- 5 Military Tribune
- 6 Triumvirate
- 7 Gaul
- 8 dictator

3 Comprehension

2, 10, 6, 1, 12, 9, 11, 4, 5, 8, 3, 7

4 Comprehension and writing

Answers will vary, but may include the following ideas:

- 1 political and military power are connected / the importance of gaining support from the general public
- 2 horse-riding / public speaking / making influential friends / military leadership / financial and law skills
- 3 ambitious (he is always seeking power) / heroic (he rescued a citizen) / ruthless (he kills the pirates even though he joked with them) / proud (he leads his army proudly) / influential (he can persuade people to do what he wants)
- 4 Julius seeks both military and political power, and holds important positions in both. He wants to gain riches for Rome by expanding territory.
- 5 Julius is victorious in Asia Minor, Gaul, Britain, the civil war in Rome and Alexandria

5 Language

- 1 executed
- 2 ransom
- 3 seat
- 4 expeditions
- 5 command
- 6 conquered

6 Follow-up activity

Answers will vary.

7 Research

Answers will vary.

The work is organized into eight books, seven of which were written by Julius. It was written to sway public opinion in favour of the Gallic wars, as many were against them. It is written in the third person, and it is simple in style. It includes interesting geographical and sociological details about the people and lands at the time. It is a reasonably honest account of what happened, although Julius avoids mentioning details that would be unpopular among Romans.