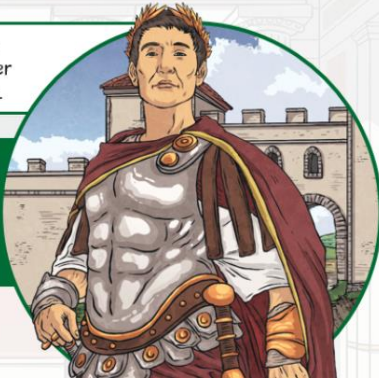


## Julius Caesar

Gaius Julius Caesar was a general in the Roman army who eventually became ruler of the Roman Empire. He was also a poet.

Although he lived two thousand years ago, many of our sayings come from the life of Julius Caesar. Even our calendar is derived from the one he invented!



What does the word **derived** mean?

- 

Does anything surprise you in this first page?

What did you find interesting?

- 

## Julius Caesar's Early Life

Julius Caesar was born in Subura, Rome on 13<sup>th</sup> July 100 BC. He was born into an important Roman family known as the Julian Clan. The Julian Clan could trace their family right back to the origins of Rome.

When Julius Caesar was 16 years old, his father died and he became the head of the family.

What does 'head of the family' mean?

- 

Why do you think this is important information him?

- 

## Military Leader

He quickly rose through the ranks and became a general. His military tactics meant that the Roman Empire spread through much of France, Germany and Spain.

In 55 BC, Caesar defeated a Germanic tribe. He had a huge bridge built for him and his army to cross the Rhine river. The tribe was defeated, Caesar and his army crossed back over the bridge and then Caesar had the bridge destroyed.

By 52 BC, Caesar had conquered all of France.



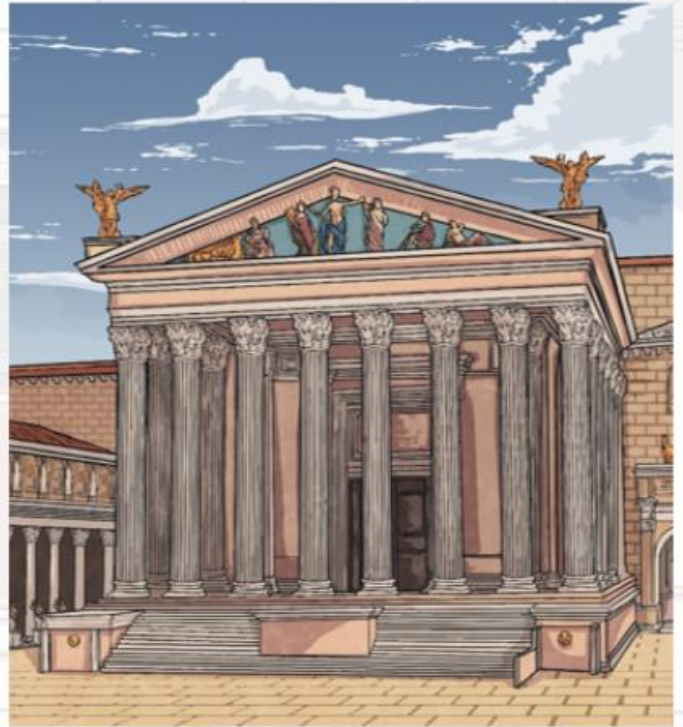
How did his earlier life prepare him for being an adult?

-

# Ruler of Rome

Caesar returned to Rome in 46 BC. He made himself **consul** and **dictator** of Rome.

During his rule, Caesar made many reforms to Rome. He ordered a census, had many public buildings erected and passed a law to give land to people who had served in the Roman army.



**consul** – The highest political position in Rome.

**dictator** – A ruler with complete power over a country. Once in power, a dictator will try to remain in control by banning elections and trying to get rid of political opponents.

Did Julius Caesar make some good choices as a leader? Explain your thoughts.

-

# The Julian Calendar

There are 365 days in a year plus an extra day every leap year, yes? Well until Caesar's reform of the calendar, the answer was actually no.

Prior to the introduction of what became known as the Julian calendar, there were 355 normal days in the Roman year and then an extra month whose length changed each year.



Caesar's calendar is almost identical to the one we use today.

What is called when you have an extra day in the year?

- 

In which year did this happen last?

- 

Why do you think that Julius Caesar's idea to change the calendar was a good idea?

-

# Caesar's Death

On 13<sup>th</sup> March 44 BC (known in the Julian Calendar as the 'Ides of March'), Caesar attended the senate.

His wife Calpurnia had warned Caesar not to go as she had dreamt that something bad was going to happen.



On his arrival at the senate, Caesar was attacked by over 60 senators. When he saw his supposed good friend Brutus among the attackers, legend has it that he said, 'You too, my son?'. Caesar then died.

Why did he say 'You too, my son?' To his friend? Explain how he felt at this point.

- 

Compare yesterday's text about Julius Caesar to today's. You can use a Venn diagram (below) or just write it in lists underneath. How many differences and similarities can you find?

