Julius Caesar Year 4 History

Week Beginning Monday 8th March 2021



L.O: to understand the early life of Julius Caesar and how he rose to become a dictator.

Trouble in the Republic

As Roman armies conquered more lands, the wealthiest Romans grew richer. They used enslaved people to work on their land. Enslaved people were not paid for the work they did, such as farming. As a result, rich farmers could sell their crops for less money than farmers who had to pay workers. This gave richer farmers a big advantage over other farmers. Many poor farmers were forced out of business and lost their land.

Many farmers who lost their land came to Rome. They were out of work and hungry. They wanted help from the Roman government. But the Senate controlled the government, and many senators were rich landowners. They did not care about helping the poor people of Rome. Several leaders told the Senate to help the people who had lost their land. But the Senate did not listen. Unhappiness among the Roman people grew. The Roman Republic was growing weak. In its final days, one man took control of the government. His name was Julius Caesar .

Julius Caesar's Early Life

Julius Caesar was born in 100 BCE. Although his parents were patricians, they were not very wealthy. Caesar knew he would have to work hard to get ahead. As a young boy, he did well in his studies and excelled at sports, especially horseback riding. Caesar served in the Roman army in Asia. When he returned to Rome, he worked as a lawyer. He made friends with many people in the Roman government.

Caesar was a great speaker and was chosen for several government jobs. One of his jobs was to manage the games and shows for the city of Rome. These shows helped amuse and entertain the people. Caesar borrowed money from his wealthy friends. He used the money to make the greatest games and shows in Roman history. His games made Caesar popular with the people of Rome.

Caesar's power increased

Caesar became friends with powerful leaders in the Senate and in the army. One of these friends was Pompey, Rome's most famous general. Caesar also had enemies in the Senate, especially among the wealthy landowners.



Even as a young man, Julius Caesar had achieved many things.

Military Success

Caesar was elected consul in 59 BCE. Then he became governor of two provinces next to an area called Gaul. Today we know this area as southern France and northern Italy. Caesar led a large Roman army into Gaul. The Gauls were fierce warriors, but Caesar was an excellent general. His soldiers loved him. Caesar won many victories. His conquests in the Gallic Wars of 58–51 BCE made him a hero to many Romans.

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.



Civil War

Caesar's old friend Pompey became jealous of Caesar. He watched Caesar grow more powerful with each victory. Soon Pompey was no longer Rome's most famous general. Caesar was. Pompey joined Caesar's enemies in the Senate. They hated and feared Caesar. They thought he was too popular with the Roman people. His army had grown too powerful. The Senate ordered Caesar to give up his army on his return to Rome.

Caesar faced a hard choice. He led his army to the Rubicon River, which was the border between Gaul and Italy. Caesar stopped and thought about what to do next. If his army crossed the Rubicon, he would be at war with Rome. But if he left his army in Gaul, he would have no protection against his enemies. They would probably kill him. Caesar decided to fight. He led his army across the river and started a civil war.

The war did not go well for Caesar's enemies. Caesar drove them out of Italy into Spain and finally to Greece. There, Caesar won a clear victory. After he won, Caesar forgave the senators who fought against him. Caesar's old friend Pompey escaped. He went to Egypt, where the king had him killed. For the king, this proved to be a terrible mistake.



TASK: You must create a fact file for Julius Caesar from the information you have been given.

- His full name was Gaius Julius Caesar.
- Caesar was born in the year 100 BC. His father was also named Gaius Julius Caesar, and his mother was called Aurelia Cotta.
- Very little is known of Caesar's childhood.
- Julius Caesar was a brilliant military general. He successfully conquered Gaul (France) and he twice invaded Britain (in 55 BC and 54 BC).
- Caesar formed and alliance with Pompey and Crassus, gaining support from the public in opposition to the Roman Senate
- Following the death of Crassus, Pompey moved away from Caesar and supported the Senate. Julius Caesar was ordered by the Senate to give up control of the military. Caesar disobeyed the order and crossed the Rubicon river with his army. A civil war took place and Julius Caesar gained control of Rome.

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