

Name _____

Date Sept 11-157th

CHAPTER
6

HISTORYMAKERS **Julius Caesar**

General, Writer, Politician, Dictator-King?

Section 2

"Caesar could no longer endure a superior, nor Pompey an equal."—Lucan, a Roman poet, on the cause of the Roman civil war

Driven by ambition and a thirst for power, Julius Caesar became a great and controversial leader of the Roman Republic. He had a tremendous impact on a growing power at a crucial point in its rise. He was also a man of extraordinary abilities—skills in war, politics, writing, and leadership. Caesar was born to an old Roman family, part of the group of families that founded the Roman Republic. He had the standard education of someone in his social position and became known as a charming, cultured, and well-read person. In addition, he gained experience in the military in Asia Minor and experience in government in Spain. Gradually, he won election to important public offices. In 63 B.C., he was voted pontifex maximus, the chief priest of the Republic. He also served in Spain, where he won fame by winning battles. He returned to Rome and was elected consul, the most important political office in the Republic.

Caesar joined with two other leading Romans in an alliance. One was Crassus, a wealthy political leader whose money could be used to advance the plans of the three. The other was Pompey, another brilliant general. To cement the alliance, Pompey married Julia, Caesar's only daughter.

As consul, Caesar worked for some new laws that eased the overcrowding in Rome and other cities. He was rewarded by being made governor of Gaul, located in modern France. He took command of the Roman armies there, determined to extend Roman control of the area. It took several years, but he eventually conquered all of Gaul and part of Britain.

The victories brought Caesar riches, which he used to fund building projects in Rome—thus winning popularity in the city. He also made sure to create some effective propaganda in his own favor. He wrote *Commentaries on the Gallic Wars*, a history of his campaigns in Gaul. Throughout the book, he referred to himself as "Caesar" and not as "I." This made the history seem objective. He also made sure that "Caesar" got credit for all victories.

The situation in Rome, however, had changed. Julia had died, which removed one link between

Pompey and Caesar. Crassus had died as well. The two generals now became bitter rivals for power. The senate, controlled by Pompey, gave Caesar a difficult choice. It ordered him to give his armies to another general, and return to Rome if he wanted to stand for election to consul again. He decided to ignore the senate and lead his army into Italy. Years of civil war followed. Pompey was backed by many major political leaders. Caesar, however, had another resource: an experienced, tough army. Pompey fled Italy for the east, where Caesar won a major victory. Pompey then retreated further to Egypt. There he was treacherously killed by a one-time supporter, Ptolemy XIII (the pharaoh of Egypt and brother to Cleopatra). In 46 B.C., Caesar defeated another army in Africa, and the following year he won victory over the sons of Pompey in Spain. Caesar was named dictator for life. As supreme ruler of Rome, he passed many reforms. However, many senators opposed him. Some simply disliked him and resented his power. Others feared that he planned to make himself king. In February, 44 B.C., he presided over a festival. By plan, Mark Antony, a close ally, offered him a king's crown. The watching crowd stirred restlessly. When Caesar refused it, they cheered. Antony again offered it, Caesar again refused it, and the crowd cheered. Still, Caesar moved behind the scenes to try to have himself made king. He also prepared to lead an army east for more conquests. On his last day in Rome, one month after the festival, his planning came to an end. As he entered the senate, a group of senators fell on him. They stabbed him 23 times. He died, ironically, at the foot of a statue of Pompey.

Questions

1. **Clarifying** How did Caesar show he was a brilliant general?
2. **Drawing Conclusions** How did Caesar use his success in Gaul to improve his political position in Rome?
3. **Determining Main Ideas** Why did the senators oppose Caesar?

CHAPTER
6

HISTORYMAKERS **Cleopatra**
Wily Queen of Egypt

Section 2

"To know her was to be touched with an irresistible charm. Her form, . . . the persuasiveness of her conversation, and her delightful . . . behavior—all these produced a blend of magic."—Plutarch, a Roman historian

Cleopatra, queen of Egypt, has gone down in history as a conniving leader who used tricks to gain influence within the Roman Empire. She was actually an intelligent ruler who used an iron will in an effort to keep Egypt free of Roman control. Ironically, the queen who tried to preserve Egypt was not even Egyptian. Cleopatra belonged to the family of the Ptolemies. This family from Macedon had ruled Egypt for several hundred years after the death of Alexander the Great. Though they had ruled Egypt for a long time, none of the family had ever bothered to learn Egyptian—until Cleopatra. Plutarch wrote that she learned so many languages she could speak to "Ethiopians, Troglodytes, Jews, Arabs, Syrians, Medes, and Parthians" in their own tongues. In the first century B.C., the family's fortunes and its hold on Egypt declined. Cleopatra's father was a weak king. He showed more interest in music than in running his kingdom, leading the people to nickname him "the Flute Player." He feared that Rome would seize Egypt, an attractive place because of its abundance of farmland. To buy safety, he sent huge amounts of money as bribes to various Roman leaders, including Julius Caesar. He eventually died in 51 B.C. At the time, Cleopatra was 18. She became queen, ruling along with her brother Ptolemy XIII, who was only ten. Powerful insiders in the Egyptian court hoped to run the country by controlling the young king. They forced Cleopatra to flee Egypt three years later. However, she raised an army and prepared to retake her crown, ready to fight her brother for control. Meanwhile, Julius Caesar had defeated his rivals and become the powerful leader of Rome. When Caesar came to Egypt to settle the issue of the throne, Cleopatra seized her chance to argue her case. She had herself wrapped in a rug and carried to Caesar so she could speak to him directly. Impressed by her clever and bold act, Caesar agreed to back her rather than her brother. Caesar and Cleopatra also began a relationship. They may have loved one another, but one historian cautioned,

"it must always be borne in mind that both of them were ruthless and devious politicians." Later, she had a son that was Caesar's. He was named Caesarion. Cleopatra's brother died fighting Caesar's army, and in 47 B.C. she was back on the throne. She and Caesar may have planned to marry and become king and queen of Rome with Caesarion to follow them. In 44 B.C., however, those hopes were destroyed. Caesar was assassinated by senators who wished to restore the Roman Republic. Cleopatra, in Rome at the time, decided it was wise to return to Egypt. Caesar's heir, Octavian, and his friend Mark Antony began to rule Rome together. The two leaders had an uneasy alliance, however, and each tried to outfox the other in order to gain control of the Roman government. Cleopatra enchanted Antony as she had Caesar. By 37 B.C., Antony had dismissed his wife, married Cleopatra, and recognized her two children as his own. He also gave large amounts of land to her, restoring Cyprus and Lebanon to Egypt. The wife that Antony rejected, however, was the sister of Octavian. This drove a wedge between the former allies. With Cleopatra's wealth Antony rebuilt his army and navy. In 31 B.C., his forces met Octavian's in battle to decide who would control Rome—and thus the Mediterranean. Octavian won, and Cleopatra and Antony escaped back to Egypt. Octavian, though, brought his armies there the following year. Trapped and unable to win, Antony committed suicide. Cleopatra pleaded with Octavian to allow her to retire and make Caesarion king of Egypt. Octavian refused, and she too committed suicide. Soon after, Octavian had Caesarion killed.

Questions

1. **Contrasting** How was Cleopatra different from the other members of the Ptolemaic Dynasty?
2. **Making Inferences** Why was Rome so important to the fate of Cleopatra's Egypt?
3. **Drawing Conclusions** Why did Octavian have Caesarion killed?

CHAPTER
6

GEOGRAPHY APPLICATION: MOVEMENT

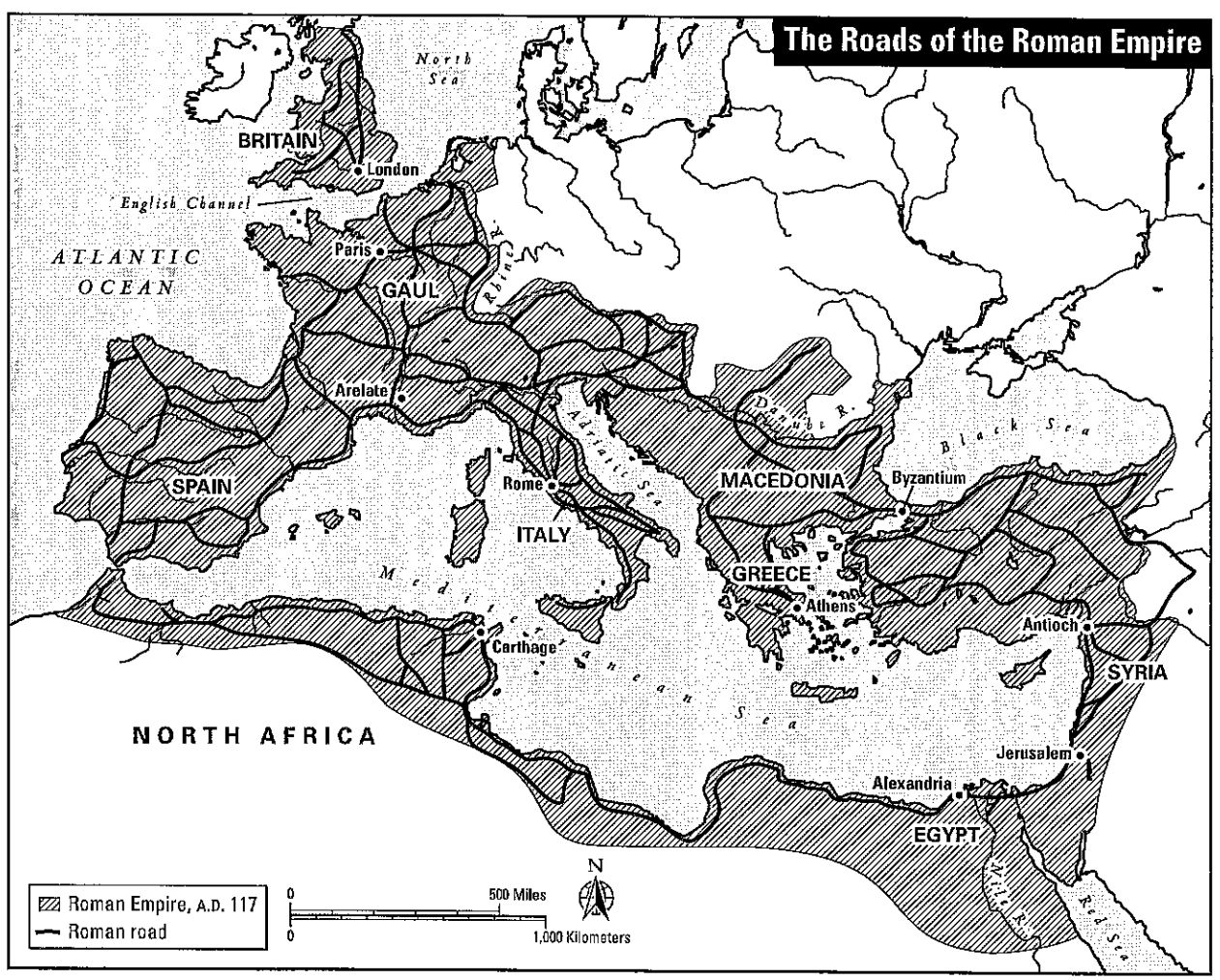
The Roads of the Roman Empire

Section 2

Directions: Read the paragraphs below and study the map. Then answer the questions that follow.

The famous Roman roads were a vast network of hard-surfaced roads connecting the city of Rome to the farthest reaches of its empire. The stone-paved highways lasted for more than a thousand years, and some sections are still in use today. Author Isaac Asimov claimed that there was no better mode of transportation in the world until the arrival of railroads close to 2,000 years later. Romans began building roads in 312 B.C. following their first major conquests. The beginning stretch, the Appian Way, trailed 132 miles southeast out of Rome. Thereafter, roadbuilding kept pace with the

empire's expansion. Eventually, Roman roads wound 53,000 miles around the Mediterranean and north-eastern Atlantic regions. The roads, constructed by slaves and soldiers, were wide enough for large wagons to pass each other. The principal use of the highways was to move Roman armies from one part of the empire to another. However, citizens were free to use the roads. The Roman statesman Cicero once spoke of moving 56 miles in a cart in just ten hours. However, travelers had to be alert for bandits, as people might simply "disappear" while riding on Roman roads.



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Interpreting Text and Visuals

1. How is the area of the Roman Empire shown? _____

What symbol represents roads on the map? _____

2. What is the approximate straight-line distance in miles between Paris and Rome? _____

What is the approximate distance between the two cities along the Roman roads, choosing the route that passes by Arelate? _____

3. Describe the location of the four significant breaks for bodies of water that the map shows in the Roman road system. _____

4. How many miles of roads made up the Roman roads? _____

5. Which two rivers provided a natural path for the Roman roads to follow? _____

6. What was one drawback to the Roman roads? _____

7. Suppose you are a Roman general who must move a legion of soldiers from Rome to Carthage. Describe your two options. _____

8. "All roads lead to Rome" is a famous saying that originally described the Roman highway system. Why would the Romans have developed their road network with Rome as its focus? _____

