

# Cleopatra

## Queen of Egypt



### What Was Cleopatra Like As a Leader?

Cleopatra was an intelligent and successful leader. She spoke lots of different languages. One of these languages was ancient Egyptian.



Cleopatra is thought to have offered stored grain to people in the city during a bad **drought**. This meant that everyone had something to eat and nobody went hungry.



### Glossary

**drought:** A long time without rainfall that leads to a shortage in water.

Cleopatra VII was the last ruler of ancient Egypt. She ruled for around 21 years in the city of Alexandria.

### Who Was Cleopatra?

Cleopatra was thought to have been born around 69 BC. She took over as the ruler of Egypt when her father died. Women were not allowed to rule on their own at the time. Therefore, Cleopatra's younger brother called Ptolemy XIII ruled alongside her.



### Did You Know...?

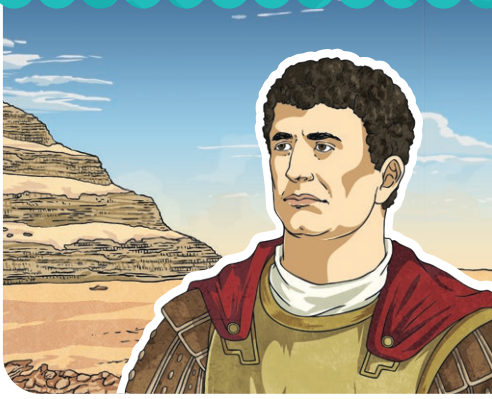
Cleopatra was born in Egypt but her family were originally from Greece.



### Cleopatra and Julius Caesar

Ptolemy XIII decided that he no longer wanted to rule with his sister so he had her thrown out of Alexandria. He had also managed to anger a Roman general named Julius Caesar at the same time. Caesar travelled to Alexandria and demanded to speak to Ptolemy XIII.

Cleopatra heard what had happened and wanted to speak to Caesar before her brother could. She wrapped herself in a carpet and had herself sent to Caesar. He was impressed and offered to help her to challenge her brother. This was successful and Cleopatra became the ruler of Egypt again.



### Cleopatra and Mark Antony ◆

Cleopatra started getting letters from another Roman general named Mark Antony after her relationship with Caesar had ended. He moved to Egypt and they had three children together.

.....

Mark Antony began talking about his children one day being in charge of countries within the Roman Empire. This angered some people in Rome and they named Mark Antony and Cleopatra as enemies of the empire.

.....

Not long after, Egypt was taken over and became a part of the Roman Empire. This brought an end to Cleopatra's rule.



# Questions

1. Where was Cleopatra born? Tick one.

- Egypt
- Greece
- Rome
- Zambia

2. What is Cleopatra thought to have done during a bad drought? Tick one.

- planted some seeds of grain
- refused to feed people
- offered stored grain to people
- offered stored water to people

3. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in. The first one has been for you.

- Cleopatra wrapped herself in a carpet to speak to Caesar.
- 1 Cleopatra took over from her father as ruler of Egypt.
- Egypt was taken over and became a part of the Roman Empire.
- Ptolemy XIII had Cleopatra thrown out of Alexandria.

4. **He had also managed to anger a Roman general named Julius Caesar at the same time.**

What do the words 'managed to anger' mean in this sentence? Tick one.

- Ptolemy XIII was angry.
- Caesar had made Ptolemy XIII angry.
- Caesar was happy and calm.
- Ptolemy XIII had made Caesar angry.

5. Where were Cleopatra's family originally from?

---

6. Fill in the missing words.

Cleopatra spoke lots of different \_\_\_\_\_. One of these was ancient \_\_\_\_\_.

7. Would you like to meet Cleopatra? Explain your answer.

---

---

---

# Answers

1. Where was Cleopatra born? Tick one.

- Egypt**
- Greece
- Rome
- Zambia

2. What is Cleopatra thought to have done during a bad drought? Tick one.

- planted some seeds of grain
- refused to feed people
- offered stored grain to people**
- offered stored water to people

3. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in. The first one has been for you.

- 3** Cleopatra wrapped herself in a carpet to speak to Caesar.
- 1** Cleopatra took over from her father as ruler of Egypt.
- 4** Egypt was taken over and became a part of the Roman Empire.
- 2** Ptolemy XIII had Cleopatra thrown out of Alexandria.

4. **He had also managed to anger a Roman general named Julius Caesar at the same time.**

What do the words 'managed to anger' mean in this sentence? Tick one.

- Ptolemy XIII was angry.
- Caesar had made Ptolemy XIII angry.
- Caesar was happy and calm.
- Ptolemy XIII had made Caesar angry.**

5. Where were Cleopatra's family originally from?

**Cleopatra's family were originally from Greece.**

6. Fill in the missing words.

Cleopatra spoke lots of different **languages**. One of these was ancient **Egyptian**.

7. Would you like to meet Cleopatra? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I would like to meet Cleopatra because I would like to talk to her about ancient Egypt and what it was like to have to rule alongside her younger brother.**

# Cleopatra

## Queen of Egypt



Cleopatra VII was the last ruler of ancient Egypt before it was taken over by the Roman Empire. She ruled for around 21 years in the city of Alexandria.

### Who Was Cleopatra? ◆

#### What Was Cleopatra Like As a Leader?

Cleopatra is often described as an intelligent and successful leader. She spoke lots of different languages. One of these languages was ancient Egyptian, which is thought to have made her popular with the local people.



During a bad **drought**, Cleopatra is thought to have offered stored grain to people in the city. This meant that everyone had something to eat and that nobody went hungry. She also studied scrolls from the library of Alexandria, which included work from some of the world's greatest **scholars**.



#### Did You Know...? ◆

Ptolemy XIII tried lots of different ways to get back into Alexandria, including pumping raw sewage into the water supply!

Cleopatra was thought to have been born around 69 BC. Although she was born in Egypt, her family were Greek. When her father died, she took over as the ruler of Egypt. However, women were not allowed to rule on their own at the time. Therefore, Cleopatra's younger brother called Ptolemy XIII ruled alongside her.

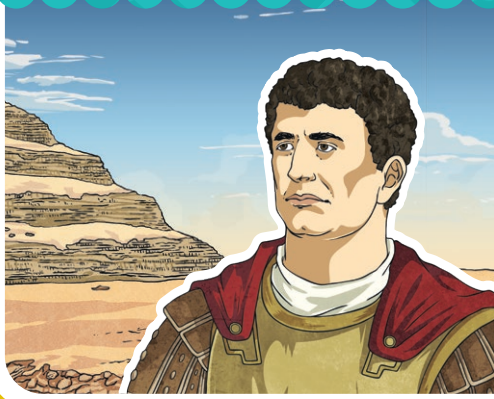


### Cleopatra and Julius Caesar ◆

When Ptolemy XIII decided that he no longer wanted to rule alongside his sister, he had her thrown out of Alexandria. At the same time, he had angered a Roman general named Julius Caesar. Caesar travelled to Alexandria and demanded to speak to Ptolemy XIII.

.....

Cleopatra had heard what had happened and wanted to speak to Caesar before her brother could. However, she was banned from entering Alexandria. So, Cleopatra wrapped herself in a carpet and had herself sent to Caesar. He was amazed by her intelligence and offered to help her get back into Alexandria and overthrow her brother. This was successful and Cleopatra was once again the ruler of Egypt.



### Cleopatra and Mark Antony ◆

After her relationship with Caesar had ended, Cleopatra started getting letters from another Roman general named Mark Antony. He thought that making friends with the ruler of Egypt would help him to take control over Rome. Eventually, he moved to Egypt and he and Cleopatra had three children together.

### Glossary ◆

**drought:** A long time without rainfall that leads to a shortage in water.

**scholars:** People who are highly educated or specialists in a particular area of study.

.....

However, Mark Antony began talking about his children one day being in charge of countries within the Roman Empire. This angered some people in Rome and they named Mark Antony and Cleopatra as enemies of the empire.

.....

Not long after, Egypt was taken over and became a part of the Roman Empire, bringing an end to Cleopatra's rule.





# Questions

1. According to the text, how long did Cleopatra rule for? Tick one.

- around 21 years
- exactly 21 years
- around 30 years
- exactly 30 years

2. When Cleopatra first became the ruler of Egypt, who ruled alongside her? Tick one.

- her father
- her sister
- her brother
- her son

3. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- Cleopatra and her brother became rulers of Egypt.
- Cleopatra met Mark Antony.
- Cleopatra was born around 69 BC.
- Cleopatra met Julius Caesar.

4. Draw **four** lines and complete each sentence.

Cleopatra...

Ptolemy XIII...

Julius Caesar...

Mark Antony...

was amazed by Cleopatra's intelligence.

studied scrolls from the library of Alexandria.

moved to Egypt and had three children with Cleopatra.

had Cleopatra thrown out of Alexandria.

5. In which section would you find information about Cleopatra being thrown out of Alexandria by her brother?

---

6. Look at the section called **What Was Cleopatra like as a Leader?**  
Find and copy one word which shows that 'lots of people liked Cleopatra'.

---

7. Using 20 words or fewer, summarise the information in the section **Who Was Cleopatra?**

---

---

---

8. Lots of books, plays and films have been written about the life of Cleopatra.  
Explain why people might find her so interesting.

---

---

---

# Answers

1. According to the text, how long did Cleopatra rule for? Tick one.

- around 21 years**  
 exactly 21 years  
 around 30 years  
 exactly 30 years

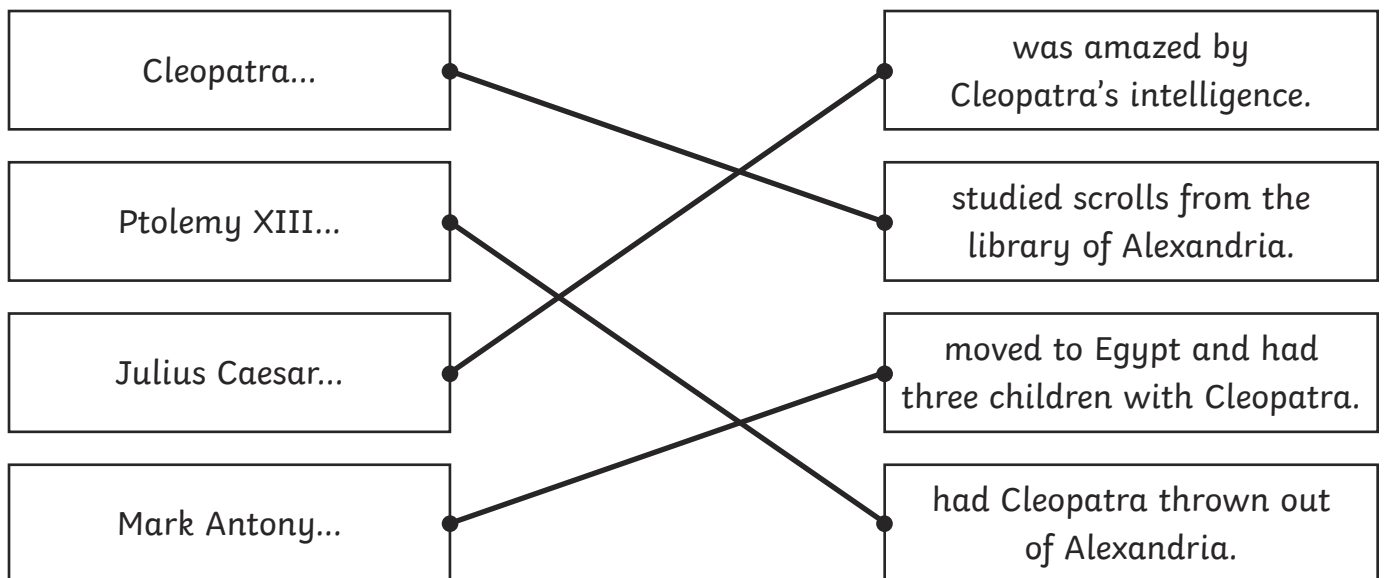
2. When Cleopatra first became the ruler of Egypt, who ruled alongside her? Tick one.

- her father  
 her sister  
 **her brother**  
 her son

3. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- 2** Cleopatra and her brother became rulers of Egypt.  
**4** Cleopatra met Mark Antony.  
**1** Cleopatra was born around 69 BC.  
**3** Cleopatra met Julius Caesar.

4. Draw **four** lines and complete each sentence.



5. In which section would you find information about Cleopatra being thrown out of Alexandria by her brother?

**You would find this information in the section 'Cleopatra and Julius Caesar'.**

6. Look at the section called **What Was Cleopatra like as a Leader?**  
Find and copy one word which shows that 'lots of people liked Cleopatra'.

**popular**

7. Using 20 words or fewer, summarise the information in the section **Who Was Cleopatra?**

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Cleopatra was a Greek ruler of Egypt who was born around 69 BC and ruled alongside her brother.**

8. Lots of books, plays and films have been written about the life of Cleopatra.  
Explain why people might find her so interesting.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: People might find Cleopatra so interesting because a lot of things happened in her life. She was sent away by her brother but then she became ruler again with the help of two powerful Roman generals. People might also find her interesting because she was the last ruler of ancient Egypt.**

# Cleopatra

## Queen of Egypt



### What Was Cleopatra Like As a Leader?

Cleopatra is described by historians as a highly intelligent and successful leader. She spoke multiple languages and was believed to be the first in her family to do so. One of these languages was ancient Egyptian, which is thought to have made her popular with the local people.



During a particularly bad drought, Cleopatra is thought to have opened up the city's grain reserves. This meant that everyone had something to eat and that nobody went hungry. She also studied scrolls from the library of Alexandria.

Cleopatra VII Thea Philopator was the last ruler of ancient Egypt before it was taken over by the Roman Empire. She ruled the country for around 21 years in the city of Alexandria.

### Who Was Cleopatra?

Cleopatra was thought to have been born around 69 BC. Although she was born in Egypt, her family were Greek. Cleopatra's father was Ptolemy XII and when he died she took over as the ruler of Egypt. However, women were not allowed to rule on their own. Therefore, Cleopatra's younger brother called Ptolemy XIII became joint ruler. At the time, Cleopatra was around the age of 18 and her brother was around the age of 10.



### Cleopatra and Julius Caesar

A few years into their leadership, Ptolemy XIII decided that he no longer wanted to rule alongside his sister. So, he had her thrown out of Alexandria and refused to let her back in.

At the same time, Ptolemy XIII had angered a Roman general named Julius Caesar. Wanting to confront the leader, Caesar travelled to Alexandria and demanded to speak to Ptolemy XIII.

Cleopatra had heard what had happened and desperately wanted to speak to Caesar before her brother could.

At the time, this was home to writing from some of the world's greatest scholars.



However, she was banned from entering Alexandria. So, Cleopatra wrapped herself in a carpet and had herself sent to Caesar. He was amazed by her intelligence and cunning and offered to help her get back into Alexandria and overthrow her brother. This was successful and Cleopatra was once again the queen of Egypt. Ptolemy XIII tried lots of different ways to get back into Alexandria, including pumping raw sewage into the water supply. He was not successful.

**Cleopatra and Mark Antony** ◆

After her relationship with Caesar had ended, Cleopatra started receiving letters from another Roman general named Mark Antony. He was trying to take control of the Roman Empire and thought that making friends with the ruler of Egypt would help him. Eventually, he moved to Egypt and he and Cleopatra had three children together.

.....

However, Mark Antony began making comments about his children one day being in charge of countries within the Roman Empire. This angered some people back in Rome and they named Mark Antony and Cleopatra as enemies of the empire.

.....

Not long after, Egypt was taken over and became a part of the Roman Empire, bringing an end to Cleopatra's rule.



# Questions

1. How old was Cleopatra when she took over as ruler of Egypt? Tick one.

- around the age of 10
- around the age of 14
- around the age of 16
- around the age of 18

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- Cleopatra became joint ruler of Egypt.
- Julius Caesar travelled to Alexandria.
- Cleopatra began receiving letters.
- Ptolemy XIII angered Julius Caesar.

3. According to the text, what did Ptolemy XIII try doing in order to get back into Alexandria?

---

4. Look at the section titled **What Was Cleopatra like as a Leader?**

Find and copy one word that means the same as 'very'.

---

5. In which section can you find out information about three of Cleopatra's children?

---

6. How do you think the author of this text felt about Cleopatra? Explain your answer.

---

---

---

7. Compare Cleopatra as a leader to Ptolemy XIII. How were they different?

---

---

---

8. Explain how you think Cleopatra felt when she was named as an enemy of the empire.

---

---

---



# Answers

1. How old was Cleopatra when she took over as ruler of Egypt? Tick one.

- around the age of 10  
 around the age of 14  
 around the age of 16  
 **around the age of 18**

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- Cleopatra became joint ruler of Egypt.  
 Julius Caesar travelled to Alexandria.  
 Cleopatra began receiving letters.  
 Ptolemy XIII angered Julius Caesar.

3. According to the text, what did Ptolemy XIII try doing in order to get back into Alexandria?

**He pumped raw sewage into the water supply.**

4. Look at the section titled **What Was Cleopatra like as a Leader?**

Find and copy one word that means the same as 'very'.

**highly**

5. In which section can you find out information about three of Cleopatra's children?

**You can find information about three of Cleopatra's children in the section 'Cleopatra and Mark Antony'.**

6. How do you think the author of this text felt about Cleopatra? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the author liked Cleopatra because they have described her as 'highly intelligent and successful'. They have also focussed on the positive things that she has done like making sure that nobody went hungry which will make the reader like her too.**

7. Compare Cleopatra as a leader to Ptolemy XIII. How were they different?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Cleopatra spoke multiple languages but it is not thought that Ptolemy XIII did. In the text, it says that Cleopatra was a successful leader. However, when Ptolemy XIII was leading on his own, he managed to anger a Roman general.**

8. Explain how you think Cleopatra felt when she was named as an enemy of the empire.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Cleopatra felt as though it was unfair. It was Mark Antony who was originally from Rome and who had been saying things to anger people in Rome. I think that she was also probably a bit frightened because the Roman Empire was powerful enough to take over Egypt so you wouldn't want them as your enemy.**