

Women History



Sculpture of Cleopatra from about 35 B.C.

Facts on Cleopatra

- Born about 69 B.C.; died 30 B.C.
- The Ptolemy family was originally Greek.
- Cleopatra sometimes shared the throne with her father, Ptolemy XII Auletes, and her brothers, Ptolemy XIII and Ptolemy XIV.

Cleopatra

Cleopatra was the pharaoh, or ruler, of Egypt from 51 B.C. to 30 B.C. She was part of the Ptolemy family. She was the last pharaoh of Egypt. Cleopatra was known for her beauty, her intelligence and her charm.

When Cleopatra began to rule, Egypt was losing its power. The Roman Empire was becoming more powerful across the world. To try and stay in control of Egypt, Cleopatra made an alliance with Julius Caesar, the emperor, or ruler, of Rome. He helped her keep the throne of Egypt.

When Julius Caesar died in 44 B.C., Cleopatra formed an alliance with Mark Antony. He was one of three powerful Romans who controlled the Empire after Caesar's death. They fell in love and Mark Antony went to Egypt with Cleopatra.

The other powerful Romans were angry that Mark Antony was giving lands to Cleopatra and her children. Rome declared war against Egypt in 33 B.C. In the Battle of Actium, Mark Antony's navy and the Egyptian navy fought against the Roman navy. The Romans won and Mark Antony returned to Egypt and died.

As the Roman soldiers attacked Egypt, Cleopatra also died. After her death, Egypt became part of the Roman Empire.



Painting of Julius Caesar offering the throne of Egypt to Cleopatra.



An ancient coin with a portrait of Cleopatra.

What is a pharaoh?

A ruler

Q

What Roman emperor helped Cleopatra keep her throne?

Julius Caesar

AND

What was the name of Cleopatra's ruling family?

Ptolemy

A

Who went to Egypt with Cleopatra and fought at the Battle of Actium?

Mark Antony