

Film Questions - *Cleopatra*
World History & Geography 1 - Rev 8/15/02

Name _____

Discussion is fine, but please do not copy answers from another student.

1. How does Cleopatra manage to meet Julius Caesar? (Supposedly, this is a true story.)

2. What is the magic word that gets Caesar's attention?

3. Why might Cleopatra have knowledge of India that Caesar did not have? (The answer is not in the movie. You will have to use your knowledge of history.)

4. Why do the senators in Rome want to kill Caesar?

5. Why does Marc Antony lose support in Rome?

6. What message does King Herod carry from Octavian to Cleopatra?

7. What kind of test does Cleopatra perform on a condemned criminal? Why?

8. Why does Cleopatra take her own life in the end? (There are probably at least two reasons.)

9. If Cleopatra had not been attractive to powerful men, how might history have been different?

Cleopatra

Overview of the film

The year is 48 B.C. At the age of 54, the great general Julius Caesar has conquered his enemies and taken control of the Roman world. He goes to Egypt where he falls under the spell of an ambitious 21-year-old woman named Cleopatra, the queen of Egypt. Caesar takes Cleopatra with him back to Rome where they have a child. Six years later Caesar is dead, and the powerful Roman general Marc Antony goes to Egypt where he falls madly in love with Cleopatra. Although the romance between Antony and Cleopatra will end in tragedy, it has become one of the great love stories of all time.

Cast of Major Characters

(in order of appearance)

Cleopatra - She became queen of Egypt at the age of 17, sharing the throne with her younger brother, Ptolemy. Cleopatra and Ptolemy were descended from one of Alexander the Great's generals, the general who took control of Egypt after Alexander died.

Pothinos, the Prime Minister - Acting on behalf of Cleopatra's brother, the prime minister tries to get rid of Cleopatra by leaving her in the desert so Ptolemy can be sole ruler of Egypt.

Julius Caesar - He was a successful general who became ruler of the Roman world and made himself dictator for life.

Calpurnia - She was Caesar's wife in Rome.

Brutus, Cassius and other Roman senators - They conspired to kill Caesar.

Octavian - He was Caesar's nephew who shared power with Mark Antony following Caesar's death.

Mark Antony - A Roman general and friend of Julius Caesar, he shared power with Octavian after Caesar's death.

King Herod - Ruler of the eastern Mediterranean province of Judea. He is a friend of Cleopatra and Mark Antony. He brings a message from Octavian in Rome.

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