

Note: Before you begin to read the text, answer Questions 1 - 4 on the opposite page.

CLEOPATRA: QUEEN OF EGYPT

Cleopatra is one of the most famous women in history. She lived from 69 BC to 30 BC. At the young age of seventeen, she became the Queen of Egypt. Cleopatra was the last ruler of the Ptolemaic Dynasty in Egypt.

Cleopatra appears to have been a popular name in her family, as her mother was known by the same name as well as an older sister, making the new daughter Cleopatra the Seventh (VII). She was extremely intelligent and ambitious. When Cleopatra became ruler, Egypt was suffering from bankruptcy and civil war. She was able to regain peace and overcome poverty throughout Egypt.

At the time Cleopatra ruled Egypt, Julius Caesar was the Emperor of Rome. Caesar was a powerful politician who ruled, and greatly extended, the Roman Empire. In 48 BC Caesar visited Egypt and fell in love with Cleopatra. She went with Caesar to Rome in 45 BC. In 44 BC Caesar was murdered and Cleopatra returned to Egypt.

To increase her power, she married a Roman general named Marc Antony. Antony was expected to become the new emperor of Rome. He soon started giving Roman land to his wife, Cleopatra, which angered rival Roman general, Octavian.

Octavian declared war on Antony and Cleopatra. In a major sea battle, Octavian defeated the Egyptians and Antony and Cleopatra fled back to Egypt. When Octavian arrived in Egypt, Marc Antony killed himself. Cleopatra then took her own life – by deliberately letting a poisonous snake bite her.

Following her death, Egypt fell to the Romans, thus ending the 300 year reign of the Ptolemaic Dynasty.



Focus: Skimming and Scanning/Predicting - Making Predictions About the Text's Content

Skimming and scanning a text allows us to identify key words or people's names. This will help you predict the relevance of the information you are about to read.

1 Scan the text. Name two people who are mentioned in the first three paragraphs.

2 Scan the text for other names. Write them below.

3 Scan the text. Does the report refer to the period BC or AD? _____

4 Predict what you think the text will be about. Write your prediction below.

Literal Questions

5 When did Cleopatra live? _____

6 How old was she when she became the Queen of Egypt? _____

7 Who was Julius Caesar? _____

8 Marc Antony was expected to become what?

9 Why did Octavian declare war on Cleopatra and Marc Antony?

10 What happened in 48 BC? _____

Inference Questions

11 The purpose of this text is to

entertain

inform

persuade

12 Why do you think Cleopatra is one of the most famous women in history?

13 Why did Cleopatra allow a snake to bite her?
