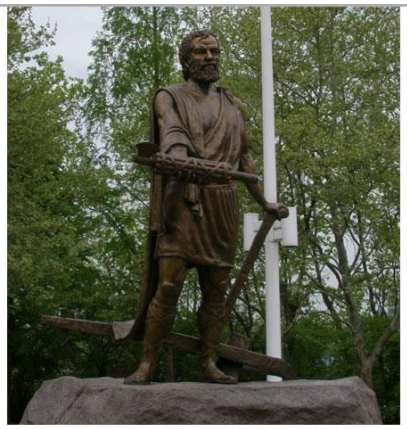
Ancient Rome Historical Figure Control Cards

Tarquin the Proud

King of Rome

died c. 495 BC

7th and last king of Rome before the establishment of the Roman Republic. An unpopular tyrant. May have murdered wife and brother. Details of life mixed with myth and legend.



Cincinnatus

Roman Consul & Dictator

c. 519-430 BC

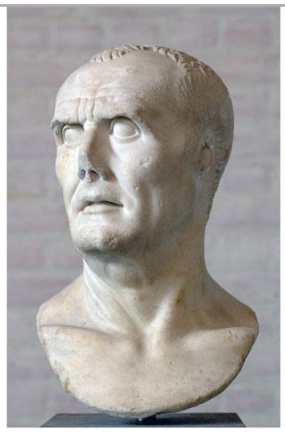
Roman general from the early Republic. Considered a model for civic virtue. Became dictator of Rome twice and each time gave up authority after trouble passed to return to his farm.

Scipio

Roman General & Consul

c. 236-183 BC

Possibly one of the greatest military generals and strategists of all time. Defeated Hannibal at Zama during the Second Punic War. Given the victory title Africanus.



Gaius Marius

Roman General & Consul

c. 157-86 BC

Consul of the Roman Republic an unprecedented 7 times. Reorganized the Roman army. Played a critical role in the collapse of the Roman Republic and birth of Roman Empire.

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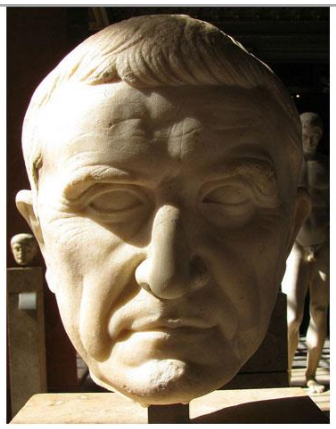
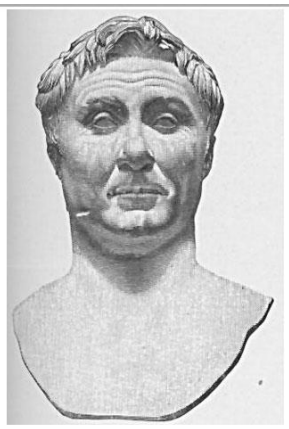


Crassus

Roman General & Consul

c. 115-53 BC

Considered the wealthiest man in Roman history after Augustus Caesar. Defeated a slave rebellion led by Spartacus. Had an alliance with Julius Caesar and Pompey. Killed in battle.

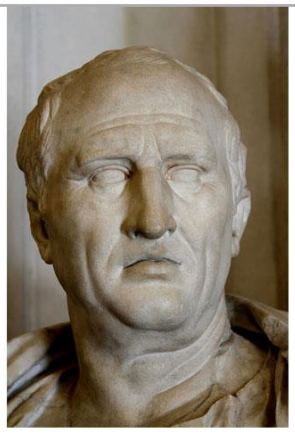


Pompey the Great

Roman Consul

c. 106-48 BC

A successful military commander who married the daughter of Julius Caesar. Initially allied with Caesar, but later fought against him and lost. Fled to Egypt where he was assassinated.

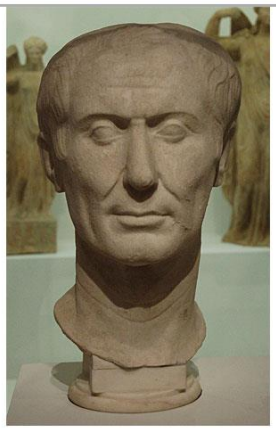


Cicero

Roman Consul

c. 106-43 BC

Considered one of the greatest public speakers of Ancient Roman history. Greatly influenced Latin and other European languages. Executed by soldiers on behalf of Mark Antony.



Julius Caesar

Roman Consul & Dictator

c. 100-44 BC

Successful military commander. Expanded Rome's territory. Showed defiance toward Senate by "crossing the Rubicon." Became dictator. Assassinated by a group of senators.

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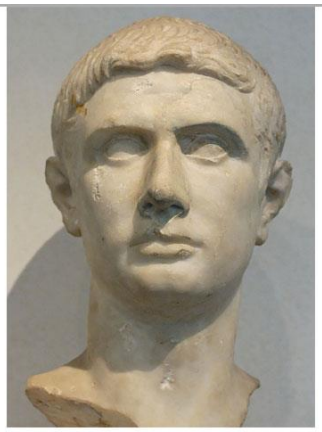
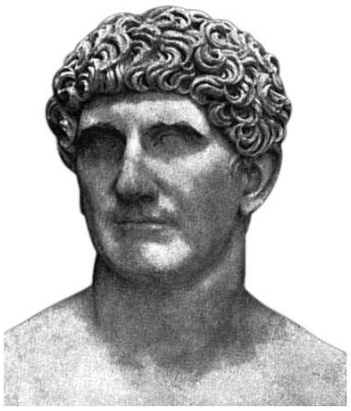


Brutus

Roman Senator

c. 85-42 BC

Although initially a friend of Julius Caesar, feared his growing power. Plotted and participated in his assassination. Killed himself after being defeated by Mark Antony.



Mark Antony

Roman Politician

c. 83-30 BC

Part of a 3-man dictatorship after the death of Julius Caesar. Had a love affair with Cleopatra. Declared a traitor by Octavian. Committed suicide with Cleopatra after losing civil war.

Virgil

Roman Poet

c. 70-19 BC

Considered one of Rome's greatest poets. Wrote epic poem, the Aeneid, which tells of the mythological founding of Rome. Influenced by Homer and later influenced Dante.

Horace

Roman Poet

c. 65-8 BC

Leading lyric poet of Ancient Rome during the time of Augustus. Most famous works are the Odes, short poems on subjects such as love, friendship, and wine.

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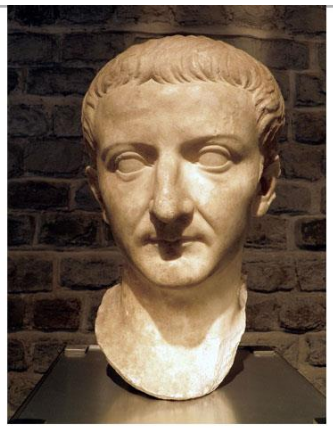
Augustus

Roman Emperor

c. 63 BC - AD 14

Originally called Octavian, the great-nephew and adopted son of Julius Caesar. Defeated Mark Antony. The first Roman Emperor. Considered a fair ruler. Brought in an era of peace.



Tiberius

Roman Emperor

c. 42 BC - AD 37

Stepson, son-in-law, and adopted son of Augustus. Became Roman Emperor when Augustus died. A great general. Considered gloomy and reclusive. Succeeded by grand-nephew, Caligula.

Caligula

Roman Emperor

AD 12 - AD 41

Originally caled Gaius, but given nickname meainng "little boots" by father's soldiers. Succeeded Tiberius as emperor. Considered cruel, extravagant, and possibly insane.

Agrippina the Younger

Roman Empress

AD 15 - AD 59

Sister of Caligula and mother of Nero. Considered beautiful, smart, ruthless, and ambitious. May have poisoned her husband, Emperor Claudius. May have been assassinated by son, Nero.

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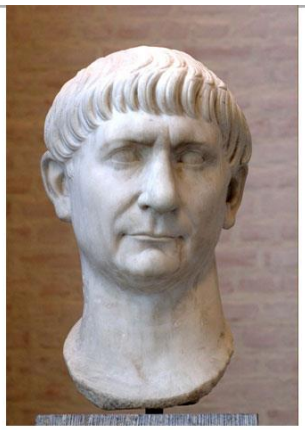
Nero

Roman Emperor

AD 37 - AD 68

Thought to have been a corrupt and extravagent tyrant. Likely caused the deaths of his stepbrother, mother, and wife. May have started Great Fire of Rome to make room for new palace.



Trajan

Roman Emperor

AD 53 - AD 117

Led greatest military expansion in Roman history. Considered a "Good Emperor" who ruled during a time of peace and prosperity. Started many public building programs.

Hadrian

Roman Emperor

AD 76 - AD 138

Named emperor by Trajan. Shrunk the Roman Empire by giving up land. Fortified boundaries, most famously with a wall in England. Admired Greek culture. Spent time visiting provinces.

Marcus Aurelius

Roman Emperor

AD 121 - AD 180

Last of the "Five Good Emperors." Practiced the philosophy of Stoicism. Authored journals known as the Meditations. Spent much of reign fighting off barbarian invadors.

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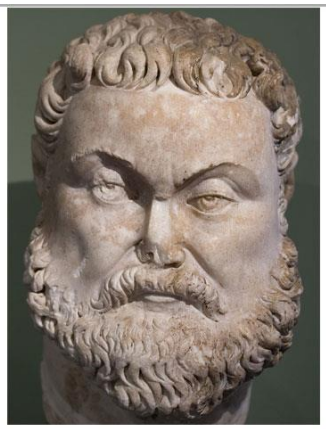
Commodus

Roman Emperor

AD 161 - AD 192

Son of Marcus Aurelius. Was the first emperor "born in the purple" (while his father was already ruling). Enjoyed fighting as a gladiator. Killed in a wrestling match.



Maximian

Roman Emperor

AD 250 - AD 310

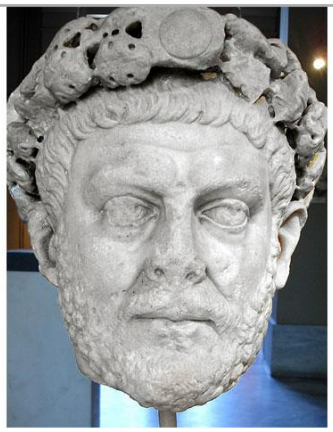
Co-emperor and subordinate of Diocletian. Had several military successes against barbarians. Tried and failed to overthrow Maxentius and Constantine. Committed suicide.

Constantine the Great

Roman Emperor

AD 272 - AD 337

May have been first Christian emperor. Issued Edict of Milan which allowed Christians to practice freely. Moved capital of Roman Empire to Byzantium and renamed capital after himself.



Diocletian

Roman Emperor

AD 244 - AD 312

Split the Roman Empire and ruled with others. Became first emperor to step down voluntarily. Made large changes to Roman government. Increased bureaucracy, but stabilized economy.

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Theodosius I

Roman Emperor

AD 347 - AD 395

Last emperor to rule both eastern and western halves of Roman Empire. Fought barbarians, but some settled within empire. Made Christianity official religion. Banned Olympics.

Stilicho

Roman General

c. AD 359 - AD 408

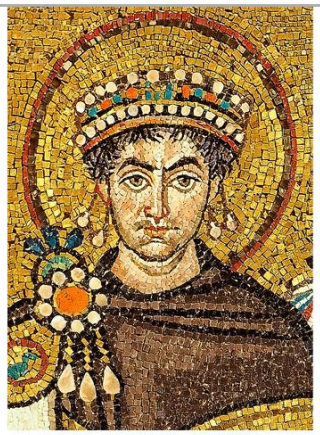
High-ranking general. Son of a Vandal (barbarian). Most powerful man in Western Roman Empire. Loyal to Roman Empire, but eventually executed after series of military defeats.

Odoacer

King of Italy

AD 433 - AD 493

Military leader of East Germanic descent who defeated Roman Emperor Romulus Augustulus and declared himself ruler of Italy. Reign marks end of Western Roman Empire.



Justinian I

Emperor of Byzantine Empire

c. AD 482 - AD 565

East Roman (Byzantine) emperor who tried to reconquer the lost western land. Most lasting legacy is changes made to Roman law. Ruled during outbreak of bubonic plague.

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