

Short Biography about the life of Tiberius

- Name commonly known as: Tiberius
- Latin Roman Name: Tiberius Claudius Nero
- Reigned as Roman Emperor / Caesar: AD 14–37 as Tiberius Caesar Augustus
- Place and Date of Birth: November 16, 42 BC in Rome
- Name of previous Emperor: His predecessor or the Emperor before Tiberius was Augustus Caesar
- Date succeeded as Emperor of Rome and circumstances of rule: AD14 - Tiberius and his mother Livia, were suspected of having hastened the death of Augustus Caesar through poison
- Married: - Vipsania Agrippina - Julia the Elder
- Children: Julius Caesar Drusus
- Place and Date of Death: March 16, AD 37 (age 77) at Misenum
- Name of next Emperor: The successor to Tiberius was Caligula

Why was Tiberius famous? Accomplishments, achievements and important events Tiberius was cold and unpopular in his manners, awkward and even timid in his demeanor, but a master of disguising these faults. Aelius Sejanus, the Prefect of the Praetorians, had long been the friend and chief adviser of the emperor. Sejanus was cruel, unscrupulous, and ambitious in fact the proper instrument of a tyrant. In A.D. 27 Tiberius hid himself in the island of Capri where he built twelve villas in different parts of the island living with a few companions. No one was allowed to land upon the shores of Capri except of course Sejanus and even fishermen who broke this rule through ignorance were severely punished. Every day, however, dispatches were brought from the continent and he still continued to direct the affairs of his vast empire. Sejanus was left to govern Rome but eventually Tiberius realized that Sejanus had become so powerful that he himself was at risk. Tiberius sent a letter to the Senate in which he denounced Sejanus as a traitor. Sejanus was flung into the Mamertine Prison, and there he was strangled in 31AD. The people of Rome threw his body into the Tiber. Great numbers of his friends or relatives perished with Sejanus, and a general massacre filled Rome with terror. Tiberius, meanwhile, seems to have become a raging madman. He put to death his niece Agrippina, with her two children and ruled over the Senate with pitiless cruelty. Tiberius died on March 16, A.D. 37. He is believed to have been smothered with a pillow. Tiberius left the empire in a prosperous condition. His cruelty, in fact, seems to have been exercised upon the great and the rich, while the people of Rome lived in relative security.

Short Biography about the life of Caligula

- Name commonly known as: Caligula
- Nickname: Little Boots
- Latin Roman Name: Gaius Julius Caesar Augustus Germanicus
- Reigned as Roman Emperor / Caesar: 16 March 37 AD – 24 January 41 AD
- Dynasty / Historical Period: Julio-Claudian
- Place and Date of Birth: Caligula was born August 31, 12 AD
- Name of previous Emperor: His predecessor or the Emperor before Caligula was Tiberius
- Date succeeded as Emperor of Rome and circumstances of rule: 37 AD
- Family connections / Genealogy
 - Married: Junia Claudilla, 33–34, Livia Orestilla, 37 or 38, Lollia Paulina, 38
 - Caesonia, 40–41
 - Children: Julia Drusilla
- Place and Date of Death: Caligula died on 24 January 41 AD in Rome
- Name of next Emperor: The successor to Caligula was Claudius

Why was Caligula famous? Accomplishments, achievements and important events:

Caius Caesar, known as Caligula, was the son of Germanicus and Agrippina and Romans hoped that he had inherited the virtues of his great father. He started his rule well recalling many exiles (people who had been kicked out of Rome), eliminating various taxes and satisfied the people with spectacles and gifts.

However after Caligula had reigned for eight months he became severely ill. Upon his recovery his mind seemed to have been fatally injured. Caligula became cruel and lustful. He declared himself to be a god and would often go through the streets of Rome dressed as Bacchus, Venus, or Apollo (various Roman gods). The Romans were compelled to worship him and he made the wealthiest citizens his priests. He even tried to make his favorite horse a consul in the government.

His extravagances soon consumed the public treasures and Caligula was forced to resort to every kind of extortion to obtain money. Having exhausted Rome and Italy, in A.D. 39 Caligula led a large army across the Alps for the purpose of plundering Gaul, where the richest citizens were put to death and their property confiscated. Caligula was assassinated in his palace January 24, A.D. 41.

Short Biography about the life of Trajan

- Name commonly known as: Trajan
- Latin Roman Name: Marcus Ulpius Nerva Traianus
- Trajan Reigned as Roman Emperor / Caesar: January 28, 98- August 9, 117
- Place and Date of Birth: Trajan was born September 18, 53 in Italica, Hispania
- Name of previous Emperor: The predecessor or Emperor before Trajan was Nerva
- Family connections / Genealogy
 - Married: Pompeia Plotina
 - Children: None - Hadrian (adoptive)
- Place and Date of Death: Trajan died August 9, 117 (aged 63) in Selinus, Cilicia
- Name of next Emperor: The successor to Trajan was Hadrian.

Interesting facts about the life of Trajan

Trajan, the first emperor who was not a native of Italy, was born at Italica, in Spain, and was about forty years of age when he became emperor. He was free from every vice except an occasional indulgence in wine. His mind was naturally strong, his manners pleasing, his appearance noble and impressive. Trajan abolished the trials for high treason, which had previously made Rome a scene of terror, restored freedom of speech to the Senate, and bound himself as emperor by oath to observe the laws. Trajan was also responsible for the foundation of public schools for the education and maintenance of poor children in various parts of Italy. Trajan also founded the Ulpian Library at Rome. Trajan was a great builder and created magnificent buildings, roads, bridges across the empire.

Trajan's Forum and Trajans Market

Trajan's forum and Trajan's market (and his column) were constructed to commemorate his victories over the Dacians. The architect of the great project was called Apollodorus of Damascus. To build the forum and market on the area of the Quirinal Hill over 60 million cubic meters of rock and earth had to be moved. Trajan was building his forum and market for the people of Rome and the ruins of the market can still be seen in Rome today. The market was built in Trajan's forum and is a semi-circular building which is three stories high. The market consisted of shops. Luxurious items such as silks were sold at Trajans market in the forum together with everyday items and fresh food. There were also restaurants and bars. Trajans Forum and the market were built almost 2000 years before our modern shopping malls.

Short Biography about the life of Nero

- Name commonly known as: Nero
- Latin Roman Name: Nero Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus
- Reigned as Roman Emperor / Caesar: October 13, 54 – June 9, 68 he was Proconsul from 51 AD
- Place and Date of Birth: December 15, 37 AD. Birthplace Antium
- Name of previous Emperor: His predecessor or the Emperor before Nero was **Claudius**
- Family connections / Genealogy
 - Nero Married: Claudia Octavia, Poppaea Sabina, Statilia Messalina
 - Children: Claudia Augusta
- Place and Date of Death of Nero: Died June 9, 68 (aged 30) in Rome
- Name of next Emperor: The successor to Nero was **Galba**

Why was Nero famous? Accomplishments, achievements and important events:

The first five years of the reign of Nero were marked by the mildness and fairness of his government. He discouraged luxury, reduced the taxes, and increased the authority of the Senate. However, he sank into immorality, cruelty, and crime. Nero became the most cruel and dissolute of tyrants. In order to marry Poppaea Sabina, a beautiful and dissolute woman, the wife of Salvius Otho, Nero resolved to divorce his wife Octavia, and also to murder his mother Agrippina.

Nero and the Burning of Rome

It would be impossible to detail all the crimes of Nero, but the deliberate burning of Rome was probably the worst. In A.D. 64 a fire broke out in Rome, which lasted for six days, consuming at least two-thirds of the city. It is unclear who started the fire. However, Nero was believed to have ordered the city to be set on fire. It is also rumored that while Rome was in flames Nero amused himself by playing a lyre (fiddle-like instrument). Whether this account of Nero was true or false is debatable but Nero did decide to blame this event on the Christians, and inflicted upon them terrible cruelties and punishments. The city was rebuilt upon an improved plan, and Nero's palace, called the Golden House, occupied a large part of the ruined capital with groves, gardens, and buildings of unequalled magnificence.

Life and Death of Nero

In A.D. 65 a plot was discovered in which many eminent Romans were engaged. The poet Lucan and Seneca, the philosopher, together with many others, were put to death. In A.D. 67 Nero travelled to Greece, and performed on the lyre at the Olympian games. Nero also contended for the prize in singing, and murdered a singer whose voice was louder than his own. Nero was finally dethroned by the Praetorian Guards*. Nero then committed suicide on June 9, A.D. 68. He was the last of the Claudian family. No one remained who had an hereditary claim to the empire of Augustus.

*Praetorian Guards = force of bodyguards used by Roman Emperors

Short Biography about the life of Hadrian

- Name commonly known as: Hadrian
- Latin Roman Name: Publius Aelius Traianus Hadrianus
- Reigned as Roman Emperor / Caesar: August 10, 117 – July 10, 138
- Place and Date of Birth: Hadrian was born 24 January 76 in Rome
- Name of previous Emperor: His predecessor or the Emperor before Hadrian was Trajan
- Family connections / Genealogy
 - Married: Vibia Sabina
 - Children: Lucius Aelius and Antoninus Pius (both adoptive)
- Place and Date of Death: Hadrian died July 10, 138 (aged 62) at Baiae on the Bay of Naples
- Name of next Emperor: The successor to Hadrian was Antoninus Pius

Interesting facts about the life of Hadrian:

Hadrian adopted the policy of refusing to extend the limits of the empire. His aim was to maintain and strengthen the existing Roman Provinces. Hadrian attempted to win the affections of the people by donations, games, and gladiatorial shows. He also cancelled a large amount of unpaid taxes and promised the Senators never to punish one of their body without their approval.

Hadrian was fond of travel and went on a journey through all the provinces of his empire, in order to examine into their condition and to discover and amend any faults in the system of government. The famous Pantheon in Rome was commissioned by Hadrian.

Hadrian - The Jewish War

A revolt broke out among the Jews and another Jewish war continued for several years, during which more than half a million of Jews are said to have perished. A famous general, Julius Severus, left his duties in Britain to lead the Roman armies and the rebellion was suppressed. The Jews were forbidden to live in Jerusalem, a city that was sacred to their beliefs. Jews were forced to live scattered over the world.

Hadrian's Wall

Hadrian's Wall was a Roman wall which formed a 73 mile frontier and barrier between the South and North of England. This marked the northern most boundary of the Roman Empire. Hadrian's wall was built not just to prevent movement but also to control movement - especially the movement of the Picts, a barbarian group. Hadrian's Wall was built by Roman soldiers who belonged to the 2nd, 6th and 20th legions and took about 6 years to complete.

The Death of Hadrian

Hadrian returned to Rome from his travels where he became sick. Hadrian adopted Arrius Antoninus (afterward the Emperor Antoninus Pius), and presented him as his successor to the Senators assembled around his bed. His illness affected the mind and character of Hadrian who became a cruel tyrant. He moved to Baiae, hoping for some relief in the fine climate of the Bay of Naples and he died there July 10th, A.D. 138, aged sixty-three.

"The Philosopher, last of the Five Good Emperors"

Short Biography about the life of Marcus Aurelius

- Name commonly known as: Marcus Aurelius
- Marcus Aurelius Reigned as Roman Emperor / Caesar: AD 161 - 180
- Place and Date of Birth: Marcus Aurelius was born 26 April 121 in Rome
- Family connections / Genealogy of Marcus Aurelius
 - Married: Faustina the Younger
 - Children: There were 14 children but Commodus was only son to survive childhood
- Place and Date of Death: Marcus Aurelius died 17 March 180 (aged 58)
- Name of next Emperor: The successor to Marcus Aurelius was **Commodus**

Interesting facts about the life of Marcus Aurelius

Marcus Aurelius was known as the Philosopher, his morals and his intellect were trained by the purest and wisest men of his age. His health had suffered and Marcus Aurelius needed to share the government of the empire with his adopted brother, Lucius Verus, who was strong and healthy but was, however, addicted to all forms of licentious pleasures.

Despite his reputation as a benevolent Emperor Marcus Aurelius allowed a cruel persecution of the Christians in A.D. 177. Among the victims of this persecution was the Christian writer and philosopher called Justin who was the author of the Apologies for Christianity which he had presented to the previous emperor Antoninus Pius and Marcus Aurelius. Justin suffered martyrdom and was later made a saint and called Justin Martyr. A couple of years later toward the close of his reign Marcus Aurelius become convinced of the falseness of the charges made against the Christians and became once more tolerant and philosophic.

Marcus Aurelius and the Parthian and German Wars

The Parthian king, Vologeses III, invaded the eastern provinces of ancient Rome. Lucius Verus was sent to defeat the Parthians with his army. The Parthians were based in Armenia, Mesopotamia, Iran, and Afghanistan providing access to the Silk Road, the trade route between the Mediterranean Sea and China. In A.D. 166 Verus returned to Rome claiming triumph. In A.D. 168 the twin emperors went north to the Danubian provinces, where they mounted a military offensive against the threatening Germanic tribes. Verus died in A.D. 171 riddled with disease from his immoral lifestyle. In A.D. 176 Marcus Aurelius triumphed at Rome for his various successes. He gave a donation of eight pieces of gold to every Roman citizen. In A.D. 177 Marcus Aurelius was again forced to march against the Barbarians. He contracted a fever at Vindobona (Vienna) in A.D. 180, and died after a few days' illness. Marcus Aurelius was the last of the Five Good Roman emperors who labored for the welfare of his people.

Short Biography about the life of Diocletian

- Name commonly known as: Diocletian
- Latin Roman Name: Gaius Aurelius Valerius Diocletianus
- Reigned as Roman Emperor / Caesar: A.D. 284 – 305
- Appointed two Caesars to assist in the control of the Empire: Galerius who controlled the legions of the Danube and Constantius who controlled Britain, Spain and Gaul
- Dynasty / Historical Period: In 285 the Roman Empire was split in half by Diocletian - The Western Roman Empire and the other half became known as the Eastern Roman Empire or the Byzantine Empire.
- Place and Date of Birth: Diocletian was born December 22, 244 in Dioclea, near Salonae (near Split)
- Place and Date of Death: Diocletian died on December 3, 311 in the port of Spalatum

Interesting facts about the life of Diocletian:

Diocletian began to reign A.D. 284 and once more revived the declining Roman empire. His parents had been the slaves of a Roman Senator and he had himself risen from this low station to the highest positions in the army. Diocletian acted with generosity toward the servants of the former emperor, not only allowing them to remain in safety under his rule, but even to retain their offices. His robes were of silk and gold. He required his subjects to bow before him, and to adore him as a holy figure.

Diocletian - The Roman Empire is split into East and West

Finding the empire too large to be governed by a single ruler, Diocletian selected as his colleague General Maximian, a brave, but fierce soldier, who, like himself, had risen to a high rank in the army. He therefore created the Diarchy ('the rule of two'). Maximian, however, always admitted the intellectual superiority of Diocletian. Diocletian ruled the Eastern Roman Empire, and Maximian ruled the Western Roman Empire.

Diocletian and Egypt

Maximian and Diocletian put down a revolt in Egypt. The emperors surrounded Alexandria for eight months, cut off the aqueducts which conveyed water to the city, and, having taken it, put many thousands of its citizens to death. One remarkable edict which he now published forbade the study of alchemy in Egypt, and ordered all books upon that subject to be burned. He also made a treaty with the Nubians, in order to protect the frontiers of Egypt.

The Persecution of the Christians and the Edict of Diocletian

The Emperor Diocletian mounted some of the fiercest Christian persecutions of the early Church especially in the East of the Empire. Diocletian passed laws or Edicts to force people who lived in the Roman Empire to worship the ancient gods of the Romans. The persecution of Christians began A.D. 303, and continued for nearly ten years.

Short Biography about the life of Constantine the Great

- Name commonly known as: Constantine the Great
- Reigned as Roman Emperor / Caesar: AD 306 - 337
- Family connections / Genealogy
 - Constantine the Great Married: Minervina, died or divorced before 307, Fausta
 - Children of Constantine the Great: Crispus (by Minervina), Constantina, Helena. Constantine II, Constantius II, Constans
- Place and Date of Death: Constantine the Great died 22 May 337 at his palace at Nicomedia

Interesting facts about the life of Constantine the Great

Constantine was the son of Constantius Chlorus and Helena. Constantine soon distinguished himself as a soldier, and won the affection of the army. In appearance he was tall, dignified, and pleasing; he excelled in all military exercises, was modest, prudent, and well informed. Constantine was so much beloved by the army and people of Gaul that they proclaimed him Emperor, and he held the province of Britain and Gaul securely against all enemies.

Constantine the Great

In A.D. 310 Maximian, having conspired against the life of Constantine, was put to death. By 317, there were two remaining emperors in control of the Roman Empire. Constantine reigned as an Western Roman Emperor and his brother-in-law Licinius as an Eastern Roman Emperor.

The Conversion of Constantine to Christianity

Great victories were gained by Constantine the Great at Turin, Verona, and on the banks of the Tiber, where, at the battle of the Milvian Bridge in 312, Maxentius was defeated, and was drowned in crossing the river. It was during the campaign against Maxentius that Constantine is said to have seen the miraculous cross in the heavens. Constantine proclaimed himself a Christian, and from Milan Constantine the Great issued an edict promising the Christians his favor and protection.

Constantinople

In 330 AD Constantine established a new capital of the Roman Empire. He built it on the location of the ancient city of Byzantium. The city was named Constantinople after Emperor Constantine. Constantinople would later become capital of the Eastern Roman Empire, also called the Byzantine Empire.

It was while preparing for a campaign against Persia that he fell ill at Helenopolis. When treatment failed, he made to return to Constantinople but was forced to take to his bed near Nicomedia. There, Constantine received baptism, putting off the imperial purple for the white robes of a neophyte; and he died in 337. He was buried at Constantinople in his church.