

MARC ANTONY

c. 82–30 BC



WHY HE MADE HISTORY Marc Antony was a Roman general and supporter of Julius Caesar. He was a part of the Second Triumvirate that ruled Rome after Caesar's death.



As you read the biography below, think about how Marc Antony's loyalty to Caesar helped him make decisions for Rome.



Marc Antony was born Marcus Antonius. His father died while Antony was very young. He and his brothers were raised by their mother. Antony studied rhetoric, but proved his worth to Rome with his courage and skills as a cavalry commander.

Antony was a supporter of Caesar. When Caesar became dictator of Rome, Antony served under him as “master of the horse.” No matter what conflicts occurred, Marc Antony remained loyal to Caesar. When Caesar was assassinated in 44 BC, Antony fled Rome dressed as a slave because he was afraid that Caesar's supporters would also be killed. Antony returned to Rome to give Caesar's **eulogy**. The Romans were so moved by Antony's speech that they rose up against Caesar's killers.

Marc Antony formed an alliance with two other important Romans, Lepidus and Octavian. This group divided the Roman Empire among themselves. Antony took the eastern provinces.

Marc Antony traveled to Egypt to see Cleopatra, Queen of Egypt, in 41 BC. Antony and Cleopatra became lovers. Antony borrowed money from Egypt and built an army. His goal was to subdue tribes in Armenia. Antony's first attempt was disastrous. Around 38 BC, Antony invaded Armenia again and

VOCABULARY

eulogy a speech or tribute given for someone who has died

was successful. Antony and his soldiers returned to Egypt and celebrated the victory.

During the celebration, Antony announced that he was ending his alliance with Octavian. He also proclaimed that his and Cleopatra's children would rule over various kingdoms around Egypt. This made Antony very unpopular in Rome. Antony divorced his wife, who was Octavian's sister, to be with Cleopatra. Octavian saw this as an insult both to his sister and to himself.

In 31 BC, Octavian sent the Roman navy to Egypt to attack Antony. Antony's fleet was defeated at the Battle of Actium. Antony escaped back to Egypt, where he and Cleopatra both committed suicide so they wouldn't become Octavian's prisoners.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

1. What were two things that Marc Antony did?

2. **Draw Conclusions** Why do you think Marc Antony lost influence in Rome?

ACTIVITY

3. Create a timeline on a separate sheet of paper. Using what you have learned about Marc Antony, make a list of events that took place in his life in the order that they occurred.