

1BACKGROUND: JULIUS CAESAR

- born in Rome on July 12 or 13, 100 B.C.
- father: Gaius (died when JC was 16) mother: Aurelia
- family was part of the original aristocracy in Rome (called patricians), but JC's family not that influential
- in order to gain some recognition, JC was able to get himself appointed (with the help of an uncle) to a minor political office in 86 B.C.
- 84 B.C.: married first wife, Cornelia, daughter of Lucius Cornelius Cinna, who was a radical politician
- 82 B.C.: ordered to divorce his wife by Sulla, a powerful enemy of the radicals. JC refused and left for military service in Asia. Returned in 78 B.C. after Sulla died and continued his political career.
- 77 B.C. left for Rhodes to study rhetoric (language). On the way, was captured by pirates. Persuaded them to RAISE his ransom to gain prestige. Once released, JC raised a naval force, found the pirates, and crucified them.
- returned to Rome in 73 B.C. By 68 B.C., JC had gained some prominent political offices, but Cornelia died soon after. JC and Cornelia had one child, a daughter. 67 B.C. Then married Pompeia, a relative of Pompey, b/c her family had strong political influences. By 62 B.C., had divorced Pompeia after a scandal.
- Rome did not have central government. Instead, had military generals who overtook lands by force. Whatever the general could conquer was his to rule. JC was a gifted general and was respected by his troops.
- 61 B.C.: JC made governor of Spain. Returned to Rome and joined with Pompey and Crassus to form the First Triumvirate (3-person government). Pompey had the political influence, JC had the military know-how, and Crassus had the money. Bond was further solidified when Pompey married JC's daughter Julia.
- 59 B.C.: JC elected consul; married Calphurnia. Over next 10 years, JC and his armies went out and conquered most of what was left of the known world that wasn't already under Roman rule. JC would conquer a territory and appoint a governor to oversee it. Whatever he gained from the victory, he always sent a large portion back to the commoners in Rome. Pompey and Crassus began to resent JC because of his power and popularity with the people.
- After conquering Egypt, JC began a long affair with Cleopatra. When he eventually left to go back to Rome, he appointed her as governor over all Egypt. They had a son together, but since he was illegitimate, he had no claim to JC's power.
- 54 B.C.: Julia died, severing the family ties b/t JC and Pompey.
- 53 B.C.: Crassus died. The next year, Pompey appointed sole consul of Rome, taking away JC's political authority. But JC had the support of both his troops and the commoners.
- 49 B.C.: Pompey went to the Senate and persuaded them that JC had become too powerful. While JC was still in Rome, Senate commanded JC to give up his position as military general. He basically told them to take it away if they could.
- JC left Egypt and marched back to Rome with all his troops. When he entered the city, Pompey fled. Within 3 months, JC had complete control of Italy and Spain and chased Pompey into Egypt, where Cleopatra waited.
- 48 B.C.: Pompey killed by an Egyptian officer, who brought Pompey's head to JC. JC was furious b/c he wanted to kill Pompey himself. JC stayed several more months with Cleopatra, then left to return to Rome, where he was named dictator for life by the people.
- 46 B.C.: JC went to Spain to defeat a rebellion led by Pompey's sons-his grandsons. JC

killed them both.

-Play opens as JC is returning from Spain.

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TIME LINE

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77 B.C.: _____

73 B.C.: _____

68 B.C.: _____

67 B.C.: _____

62 B.C.: _____

61 B.C.: _____

59 B.C.: _____

59-49 B.C.: _____

54 B.C.:

53 B.C.:

49 B.C.:

48 B.C.:

46 B.C.:
