Name _____ Date _____

# From Republic to Empire: Julius Caesar and Augustus

**Directions:** Read the passage about Julius Caesar and Augustus. Several questions test the words in bold, so read each one carefully in its sentence.

## From Republic to Empire

### From Caesar to Augustus

Julius Caesar was a Roman general who conquered Gaul, a region that covered most of today's France and parts of nearby lands. As his power grew, the Senate ordered him to give up his army. Instead, in 49 BCE, he led his soldiers into Italy. A **civil war**, a war between groups within the same country, followed, and Caesar won.

Caesar was named **dictator**. Under the Republic's rules, a dictator was an official given special powers for a short time, usually no more than six months, to handle an emergency. But early in 44 BCE, Caesar was named dictator for life. Some senators feared he wanted to rule as a king. On March 15, 44 BCE, a group of them **assassinated** him at a meeting of the Senate. Caesar was never an emperor.

More civil wars followed. Caesar's great-nephew and adopted son, Octavian, defeated his last rivals, Mark Antony and Cleopatra, in 31 BCE. In 27 BCE, the Senate gave Octavian the title Augustus. Historians count him as Rome's first **emperor**, the sole ruler of an empire. Augustus kept the Senate and other parts of the old Republic, but he held the real power. He called himself the **princeps**, or "first citizen."

Augustus began the **Pax Romana**, or "Roman Peace," a long period of order that lasted about 200 years, until 180 CE. There were still wars and revolts, but the empire was far more peaceful than during the civil wars.

**1.** Complete the sentences with years from the passage.

| **Word bank** |
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| 49 • 180 • 27 • 44 |

Julius Caesar was killed in _____ BCE. Octavian received the title Augustus in _____ BCE.

**2.** Match each bold term from the passage about Caesar and Augustus to its meaning.
Write the letter of the matching answer on each line.

1. _____ civil war
2. _____ dictator
3. _____ assassinated
4. _____ emperor
5. _____ princeps
6. _____ Pax Romana

Choices for question 2

A. a long period of relative peace and order in the Roman Empire
B. murdered an important leader, often for political reasons
C. in the Roman Republic, an official given special powers for a short time during an emergency
D. a title meaning first citizen that Augustus used for himself
E. a war between groups of people within one country
F. a council of Rome's leading men that gave advice
G. a region that covered most of today's France
H. the sole ruler of an empire

**3.** Who was Rome's first emperor?
A. Augustus B. Mark Antony C. Cleopatra D. Julius Caesar

**4.** Why was it unusual for Caesar to be named dictator for life?
A. Being dictator made Caesar Rome's first emperor.
B. Rome had never had a dictator before.
C. A dictator was supposed to hold special powers only for a short time.
D. Dictators were usually chosen by lottery.

**5.** Why did some senators turn against Caesar?
A. He wanted to give the Senate more power.
B. He refused to fight in Gaul.
C. They feared he wanted to rule as a king.
D. He had lost the civil war.

**6.** What happened in Rome after Caesar was assassinated?
A. Caesar's killers were named emperors.
B. The Senate stopped meeting forever.
C. Rome entered 200 years of peace right away.
D. More civil wars broke out.

**7.** Which of these events in the story of Caesar and Augustus happened first?
A. The Senate gave Octavian the title Augustus.
B. Caesar was named dictator for life.
C. Caesar led his soldiers into Italy, and a civil war began.
D. Octavian defeated Mark Antony and Cleopatra.

**8.** How did Augustus hold power while keeping the look of the old Republic?
A. He handed his army to Mark Antony.
B. He let the Senate rule without him.
C. He kept the Senate but held the real power, calling himself first citizen.
D. He made himself dictator for life, as Caesar had.

**9.** Which statement about the Pax Romana matches the passage?
A. It meant there were no wars or revolts at all.
B. It was the civil war that ended the Republic.
C. It was a long period of order that lasted about 200 years.
D. It was a law that made Caesar dictator for life.

**10.** Where was Gaul, the region Caesar conquered?
A. In North Africa, in today's Egypt
B. In the Middle East, in today's Iraq
C. In East Asia, in today's China
D. In western Europe, covering most of today's France