

# Primary History

## Resource: The Romans - Roman Emperors

### BC 27 **AUGUSTUS**

Augustus was the first Emperor of Rome. His name was Octavian before he became emperor, and changed it to Augustus in 27 BC. He came out on top after years of civil war that followed the death of Julius Caesar. Augustus was not a very lovable person, but he was clever and a good law-maker. He set up a mail service and built roads. The empire got bigger. Augustus had a month named after him (August); before him, the Romans called this month Sextilis. When Augustus died in AD 14, his stepson Tiberius became emperor. There was no going back to a republic.

### AD 14-37 **TIBERIUS**

### AD 37-41 **GAIUS 'CALIGULA'**

### AD 41-54 **CLAUDIUS**

Claudius was Tiberius' nephew. When the emperor's bodyguard, the Praetorian Guard, murdered the mad emperor Caligula, the guards made Claudius emperor. They thought he was a fool, but he turned out to be an emperor who ruled well. It was Claudius who ordered the invasion of Britain in AD 43.

### AD 54-68 **NERO**

Nero was the adopted son of Claudius. Some historians think his mother Agrippina poisoned Claudius (her second husband) so that Nero could become emperor. Nero wanted to be an actor and a poet. He appeared on stage, which many people thought was very undignified for an emperor. Nero was also blamed for a fire that burned down much of Rome in A.D. 64. In the end he killed himself.

### AD 68-69 **GALBA**

### AD 69 YEAR OF THE 4 EMPERORS **GALBA, OTHO, VITELLIUS, SABINUS**

### AD 69-79 **VESPASIAN**

### AD 79-81 **TITUS**

### AD 81-96 **DOMITIAN S AUGUSTULUS (W)**

# Primary History

## Resource: The Romans - Roman Emperors

AD 96-98 **NERVA**

AD 97-117 **TRAJAN**

Trajan came from Spain and was the first non-Roman to be emperor. He was a great general, and increased the territory of the Roman Empire. He commemorated these victories on Trajan's Column, in Rome.

AD 117-138 **HADRIAN**

Hadrian was Trajan's adopted son. He spent most of his reign touring the Roman Empire, and realised that the Empire was too big to rule or defend properly. He therefore abandoned Trajan's conquests in Parthia (modern Iran-Iraq) and made new borders to the Empire. His most lasting legacy is Hadrian's Wall in Britain.

AD 138-161 **ANTONINUS PIUS**

AD 161-169 **MARCUS AURELIUS & LUCIUS VERUS**

AD 161-180 **MARCUS AURELIUS**

Marcus Aurelius was a clever emperor, interested in ideas, he wrote a book of philosophy. He thought all people are basically the same, in a world that is basically good. Unfortunately, as emperor, his main problems were to defend the empire's borders against attacks, and deal with his son Commodus, who was not a good person at all. Commodus's idea of a good time was to dress up as a gladiator and kill people for fun.

AD 180-192 **COMMODUS**

AD 193 **PERTINAX**

AD 193 **DIDIUS JULIANUS**

AD 193-211 **SEPTIMIUS SEVERUS**

Severus was born in Libya (North Africa) and was made emperor by the Army. The three emperors before him, Commodus, Pertinax and Julianus, were all murdered. He ignored the Senate and relied on the Army – a habit followed by most later emperors. He died at York while on a military expedition in Britain.

# Primary History

## Resource: The Romans - Roman Emperors

- AD 211-217 **CARACALLA**
- AD 217-218 **MACRINUS**
- AD 218-222 **ELAGABALUS**
- AD 222-235 **SEVERUS ALEXANDER**
- AD 235-238 **MAXIMINUS THRAX**
- AD 238 **GORDIAN I & 11**
- AD 238 **BALBINUS & PUPIENUS**
- AD 238-244 **GORDIAN III**
- AD 244-249 **PHILIP THE ARAB**
- AD 249-251 **DECIUS**
- AD 251-253 **TREBONIANUS GALLUS**
- AD 253 **AEMILIANUS**
- AD 253-259 **VALERIAN & GALLIENUS**
- AD 253-268 **GALLIENUS**
- AD 268-270 **CLAUDIUS GOTHICUS**
- AD 270-275 **AURELIAN**
- AD 275-276 **TACITUS**
- AD 276-282 **PROBUS**
- AD 282-283 **CARUS**
- AD 283-284 **CARINUS & NUMERIAN**

AD 284-305 **DIOCLETIAN** (EASTERN EMPIRE - E)

Diocletian was the commander of Numerian's imperial guard, and came to power after assassinating him. He realised he couldn't rule such a big empire on his own, so he divided it in two, giving the western half to his friend Maximian. In AD 305, Diocletian abdicated and retired from public life, forcing Maximian to abdicate with him. He was the only emperor ever to leave the throne voluntarily.

AD 285-305 **MAXIMIAN** (WESTERN EMPIRE - W)

AD 305-311 **GALERIUS** (E)

AD 305-306 **CONSTANTIUS CHLORUS** (W)

AD 306-307 **SEVERUS** (W)

AD 307-312 **MAXENTIUS** (W)

# Primary History

## Resource: The Romans - Roman Emperors

AD 306-337 **CONSTANTINE** (E & W)

Constantine was the son of Constantius Chlorus. His troops declared him emperor in Britain in AD 306. In the long civil war that followed, he defeated all his major rivals. He believed that his success was due to the god of the Christians, and in gratitude he made Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire, and moved the capital of the empire to the Greek city of Byzantium, which he renamed Constantinople. When he died, he divided the empire between his three sons.

AD 337-361 **CONSTANTIUS II** (E)

AD 337-340 **CONSTANTINE II** (W)

AD 337-340 **CONSTANS** (W)

AD 340-361 **CONSTANTIUS II** (E&W)

AD 361-363 **JULIAN** (E&W)

AD 363-364 **JOVIAN** (E&W)

AD 364-378 **VALENS** (E)

AD 364-375 **VALENTINIAN** (W)

AD 375-383 **GRATIAN** (W)

AD 379-395 **THEODOSIUS** (E)

AD 375-383 **GRATIAN** (W)

AD 375-392 **VALENTINIAN II** (W)

AD 392-394 **EUGENIUS** (W)

AD 394-395 **THEODOSIUS** (E&W)

AD 395-408 **ARCADIUS** (E)

AD 408-450 **THEODOSIUS II** (E)

AD 450-457 **MARCIAN** (E)

AD 395-423 **HONORIUS** (W)

AD 423-425 **JOHN** (W)

AD 425-455 **VALENTINIAN III** (W)

AD 455 **PETRONIUS MAXIMUS** (W)

AD 455-456 **AVITUS** (W)

AD 457-474 **LEO I** (E)

AD 456-461 **MAJORIAN** (W)

AD 461-465 **LIBIUS SEVERUS** (W)

# Primary History

Resource: The Romans - Roman Emperors

AD 467-472 **ANTHEMIUS** (W)

AD 472 **OLYBRIUS** (W)

AD 473 **GLYCERIUS** (W)

AD 473-475 **JULIUS NEPOS** (W)

AD 474-491 **ZENO THE ISAURIAN** (E)

AD 475-476 **ROMULU**