

Chapter 1 : Weird things you didn't know about Cleopatra

Cleopatra VII was born in early 69 BC to the ruling Ptolemaic pharaoh Ptolemy XII and an unknown mother, presumably Ptolemy XII's wife Cleopatra VI Tryphaena (also known as Cleopatra V Tryphaena), the mother of Cleopatra's older sister, Berenice IV Epiphaneia.

She had a hand in the deaths of three of her siblings. Power grabs and murder plots were as much a Ptolemaic tradition as family marriage, and Cleopatra and her brothers and sisters were no different. Her first sibling-husband, Ptolemy XIII, ran her out of Egypt after she tried to take sole possession of the throne, and the pair later faced off in a civil war. Cleopatra regained the upper hand by teaming with Julius Caesar, and Ptolemy drowned in the Nile River after being defeated in battle. Following the war, Cleopatra remarried to her younger brother Ptolemy XIV, but she is believed to have had him murdered in a bid to make her son her co-ruler. Cleopatra knew how to make an entrance. Cleopatra believed herself to be a living goddess, and she often used clever stagecraft to woo potential allies and reinforce her divine status. A famous example of her flair for the dramatic came in 48 B. Caesar was dazzled by the sight of the young queen in her royal garb, and the two soon became allies and lovers. Cleopatra later employed a similar bit of theater in her 41 B. When summoned to meet the Roman Triumvir in Tarsus, she is said to have arrived on a golden barge adorned with purple sails and rowed by oars made of silver. Cleopatra had been made up to look like the goddess Aphrodite, and she sat beneath a gilded canopy while attendants dressed as cupids fanned her and burned sweet-smelling incense. Antony—who considered himself the embodiment of the Greek god Dionysus—was instantly enchanted. Cleopatra joined Julius Caesar in Rome beginning in 46 B. Cleopatra was forced to flee Rome after Caesar was stabbed to death in the Roman senate in 44 B. Cleopatra and Mark Antony formed their own drinking club. Cleopatra first began her legendary love affair with the Roman general Mark Antony in 41 B. According to ancient sources, they spent the winter of B. She led a fleet in a naval battle. Cleopatra eventually married Mark Antony and had three children with him, but their relationship also spawned a massive scandal in Rome. The conflict reached its climax the following year in a famous naval battle at Actium. The battle soon devolved into a rout, and Cleopatra and Antony were forced to break through the Roman line and flee to Egypt. Cleopatra may not have died from an asp bite. Cleopatra and Antony famously took their own lives in 30 B. A film about her was one of the most expensive movies of all time. It was the most expensive movie ever made at the time of its release, and nearly bankrupted its studio despite raking in a fortune at the box office. We strive for accuracy and fairness. Twice a week we compile our most fascinating features and deliver them straight to you.

Chapter 2 : 10 Little-Known Facts About Cleopatra - HISTORY

Cleopatra was an Egyptian queen who had affairs with Rome's Julius Caesar and Marc Antony. She and Antony were defeated by Octavian in the battle at Actium. Learn more at calendrierdelascience.com

No ancient resources mention the prince having served in military endeavors or his political career. Alexander the Great as Helios. Marble, Roman copy after a Hellenistic original from 3rd-2nd century BC. Celebrating his victory, he made a parade. One of the greatest trophies he presented to the Romans were the children of the Egyptian Queen in golden chains. They were paraded down the streets behind an effigy of their mother clutching an asp to her arm. Octavian gave the children to his elder sister and the former wife of Mark Anthony - Octavia Minor. This raises the question if Ptolemy Philadelphus survived the journey to Rome. He may have died from illness in the winter of 29 BC. A daughter of the moon Surprisingly, the only daughter of Cleopatra became the greatest of all of the children of the last queen of Egypt. When Augustus arranged her marriage with the King Juba of Numidia in Rome between 26 and 20 BC, no one could have guessed that this couple would become two of the most important rulers of Mauretania in history. Augustus gave to Cleopatra a huge dowry as a wedding present, so she became an ally of Rome. Due to this fact, the couple were sent to Muretania, which was an unorganized territory that needed Roman supervision. Coin of the ancient kingdom of Mauretania. Public Domain Cleopatra Selene was the only surviving member of Ptolemaic dynasty. They called the new capital Caesarea modern Cherchell in Algeria. During their rule, the Mauretanian Kingdom flourished by exporting and trading in the Mediterranean area. The architecture of the city was a mixture of Greek, Roman, and Egyptian styles. Cleopatra Selene and Juba II had two children. One of them was a girl whose name has not been recorded. Some researchers believe that she was Drusilla of Mauretania, but the woman of this name could also be a granddaughter of the royal couple. Much more information survived about their son - Ptolemy of Mauretania. With his death in 40 AD, he closed the history of the Ptolemaic dynasty.

Chapter 3 : Cleopatra's Influences on Rome and Egypt by Sonia Gupta on Prezi

Cleopatra and Ceasar by Jean-LÃ©on GÃ©rÃ©me portrays the scene in which Cleopatra emerges from the carpetâ€”probably somewhat disheveled, but dressed in her best fineryâ€”and begs Caesar for aid.

Deposed from power by her brother, Cleopatra aligned herself with Julius Caesar to regain the throne. But, after Mark Anthony had been defeated by the forces of Octavian in the Roman Civil War, Anthony and Cleopatra committed suicide, rather than fall into the hands of Octavius. Cleopatra was born around 69 BC. As was the custom of the time, Cleopatra married her brother, and together they ruled Egypt. However, Ptolemy soon had Cleopatra exiled, leaving him in sole charge. When Pompey fled to Alexandria, the capital of Egypt, he was murdered on the orders of Ptolemy. Ptolemy had hoped to curry favour with Caesar, but when Ceasar arrived in Alexandria, he was enraged at the murder of a Roman consul by a foreign subject. It enabled Cleopatra to be reinstalled as Queen. Although she was brought up to speak Greek like her family, she also made an effort to learn Egyptian and later only spoke only in the native tongue of her subjects. Together Cleopatra and Mark Anthony had three children. In his pursuit of power, Octavian claimed that Mark Anthony would give away Rome to this Egyptian Queen, who seemed to have Mark Anthony under her spell. It was also seen as a family insult that Mark Anthony was married to his sister but, at the same time, having an affair with Cleopatra. Cleopatra and Mark Anthony were decisively beaten in battle and scarcely escaped back to Egypt. In one account of her death, Cleopatra committed suicide by persuading a cobra to bite her on the breast. Octavian later had their son Caesarion strangled, ending the Cleopatra dynasty. Egypt became a province of the Roman Empire, and Cleopatra proved to be the last of the Egyptian Pharaohs. Her image was put on Egyptian coins, which was very rare for the historical period. Plutarch writing in the Life of Mark Antony wrote: It was a pleasure to hear the sound of her voice, and she tuned her tongue like a many-stringed instrument expertly to whatever language she choseâ€”. The Ptolemies, throughout their dynasty, spoke Greek and refused to speak Egyptian, which is the reason that Greek, as well as Egyptian languages, were used on official court documents such as the Rosetta Stone. By contrast, Cleopatra did learn to speak Egyptian and represented herself as the reincarnation of an Egyptian goddess, Isis. Last updated 7th March

Chapter 4 : The Timeline of the Life of Cleopatra

He was believed to be Caesar's child, and was known by the Egyptian people as Caesarion, or Little Caesar. Sometime in B.C., Cleopatra traveled with Ptolemy XIV and Caesarion to Rome to.

She was a talented and resourceful individual of great charm but ruthless when she felt she had to be. Cleopatra was the only one of her family that learned to speak the Egyptian Coptic language. She knew a half dozen to a dozen other languages. She was an educated intellectual and a capable administrator. Despite her abilities and effort she failed and her life was one of sadness rather than glamour. The Timeline BCE: Alexander conquers Egypt effortlessly as a minor side-campaign in his conquest of the Persian Empire. Alexander dies in Babylon upon his return from the conquest of what is now Afghanistan, the Indus River Valley and the areas in Central Asia north of Afghanistan. Cleopatra is a descendant of Ptolemy. Rome establishes a protectorate of Egypt. Cleopatra is born in Egypt. She is the seventh in the Ptolemy dynasty to bear the name Cleopatra, which means glory of the father. She is the second daughter of Ptolemy XII. She and the rest of the Ptolemys were of almost pure Macedonian Greek ancestry, possibly of some Iranian but no Egyptian ancestry. Ptolemy XII is returned to power by a Roman army. Cleopatra is about 18 years old and had ruled for a short time as a co-regent with her father. In the Egyptian scheme of things Pharaohs marry a sister to ensure the rulership never leaves the royal family. Cleopatra and Ptolemy marry. There could not have been any affection between Cleopatra and her brother. Cleopatra was determined to rule. Julius Caesar was engaged in a civil war with another Roman leader, Pompey. Pompey had been defeated in a battle and fled to Egypt. Caesar was pursuing him but Pompey was assassinated upon his arrival in Egypt before Caesar arrived in Egypt. Caesar was left with idle time. When the carpet was unrolled a vivacious 21 year old Egyptian queen emerges. Caesar was about 52 at the time. Cleopatra captivated him but it was probably not her youth and beauty. Caesar could have had beves and beves of beautiful young women. Had Cleopatra met Caesar through official state channels protocol would have interfered with her working her charms upon him. She was said to have a thousand ways of flattering. Or, at least she would be once back in power in Egypt. Caesar was chronically and often disastrously in debt. Ptolemy XIII dies of drowning while trying to escape the field of battle. Caesar returns to Rome. In Rome, Caesar holds a triumphal celebration of his victories. These celebrations whenever possible included the parading of the defeated enemies. Cleopatra joins Caesar in Rome. Caesar orders that a gold-plated statue of Cleopatra be placed in the temple of Venus Genetrix. Although Pompey had been defeated and was killed in Egypt the civil war did not end. Caesar took an army to Spain to deal with this threat. After a series of retreats the Pompeys decided to do battle at Munda from some high ground. The battle was indecisive until a shift in troops by one of the Pompeys was misinterpreted as a retreat and their other troops began to retreat. Caesar had achieved total victory over the armies of his rivals, he had been made dictator politically. His enemies in the Roman senate saw Caesar as acquiring all powers, even to the point of having himself declared a god. They arranged his assassination in which some of previous friends participated as well as his enemies. She wanted to make her son, Caesarion, co-regent with her as Ptolemy XV. Marcus Antonius Mark Antony emerges as the leader of the forces which backed Caesar. Mark Antony decides for no obvious reason to attack the Parthian Persian Empire. He calls for Cleopatra to join him at Tarsus. He had met Cleopatra 13 years before when she was 14 years old. That had been an inconsequential meeting. Their meeting at Tarsus was anything but inconsequential. Cleopatra having lost the protection of the strongman Caesar needed another Roman leader to protect her. Mark Antony was so captivated by Cleopatra that he gave up his plans for the invasion of the Parthian Empire and went with Cleopatra back to her capital of Alexandria. From the likenesses of Cleopatra on the coins of her realm she was not a great beauty so her attraction came from the charm of her personality and from her intellect. Arsinoe was possible rival for the throne of Egypt. Arsinoe herself was helpless but her enemies in Egypt could have used her in a bid to depose Cleopatra. A very distant threat but Cleopatra was not one to take chances. An agreement was reached and part of the arrangement was that Mark Antony marry the sister of Octavian, Octavia. They were twins, a boy named Alexander Helios and a girl named Cleopatra Selene. Meanwhile back in Egypt another drama was

unfolding. Herod was the king of Judea. He had accepted Roman overlordship and the Romans in turn had allowed him to continue to rule his kingdom. Herod was a competent ruler. Mark Antony decides that he and Octavian can never work together. He decides to resume the campaign against the Parthian Empire. Cleopatra joins him at Antioch and they get married. This was not only illegal under Roman Law it was a betrayal of Octavia, his legal wife and the sister of Octavian. This makes war between Octavian and Mark Antony inevitable. This not only enrages Octavian, it infuriates most Romans and they back Octavian in the struggle between the two leaders. The Parthian campaign results in only minor conquests, notably Armenia. Cleopatra bears Antony another son, Ptolemy Philadelphus. Mark Antony celebrates a victory triumph in Alexandria for his gains from the Parthians. The area west of Armenia is awarded to the second son, Ptolemy Philadelphus. The daughter Selene is given Cyprus. Furthermore, at the celebration Caesarion is publically declared to be the son of Julius Caesar and thus the king of kings. The celebration of a triumph in Alexandria was a serious offense to Romans. Such celebration were only supposed to take place in Rome, the capital of the empire. He publicizes its contents. The Roman citizens are outraged. Mark Antony and Cleopatra live together in Greece. At the height of the battle Cleopatra fearing capture takes her ships out of the battle. His army surrenders to Octavian. Mark Antony escapes from the defeat and joins Cleopatra on her ship, but he is furious with her for having unnecessarily precipitated the defeat at Actium. After several days he relents and he and Cleopatra stay together in Alexandria. Mark Antony has revealed himself as a loser and Cleopatra needs someone else who can protect her. Octavian communicates to Cleopatra that if she kills Mark Antony that he might work out something with her. Cleopatra realizes that she is not powerful enough to expell Mark Antony from Egypt or to assassinate him. She conceives a fiendish plot. She has a message sent to Mark Antony saying that she had killed herself. Upon hearing that his loved one was dead he falls upon his sword. He finds her alive and tells her to make her peace with Octavian. She sends Caesarion with trusted protectors to hide in the east of Egypt near the Red Sea. Cleopatra first intends to commit suicide by setting fire to the mausoleum where she has collected her treasures. Roman soldiers find entry to the mausoleum and thwart her plans. She is taken captive. Cleopatra then arranges for a poisonous snake, an asp, to be smuggled to her in a basket of figs. She then commits suicide by allowing the asp to bite her on her chest. She arranged for her and Mark Antony to be buried together.

Chapter 5 : Cleopatra - HISTORY

Cleopatra >Cleopatra (B.C.) was the last of the Ptolemaic rulers of Egypt. She >was notorious in antiquity and has been romanticized in modern times as the >lover of Julius Caesar [1] and Mark Antony [2].

Rehabilitating Cleopatra Meanwhile, pursuing a military rival who had fled to Egypt, the Roman general Julius Caesar arrived at Alexandria in the summer of 48 B. She persuaded her servant Apollodoros to wrap her in a carpet or, according to some sources, a sack used for storing bedclothes , which he then presented to the year old Roman. Wikipedia Dated to 32 B. People can only judge them on whether they were beautiful. Portrait of a Queen The Egyptian queen frequently surrounded herself with splendor, but luxury was less an indulgence than a political tool. Smithsonian Institute Research Information System The Death of Cleopatra by Edmonia Lewis shows a carving of the Egyptian Queen after she has killed herself, rather than letting herself be taken by the Roman authorities. Smithsonian American Art Museum In the Death of Cleopatra, by Guido Cagnacci an Italian painter of the late-Baroque period , a popular theory on how Cleopatra killed herself is brought to life; that she was bitten by an asp on her breast. Another theory is that she drank a poisonous tonic. Wikimedia Commons Like most monarchs of her time, Cleopatra saw herself as divine; from birth she and other members of her family were declared to be gods and goddesses. Highly image-conscious, Cleopatra maintained her mystique through shows of splendor, identifying herself with the deities Isis and Aphrodite, and in effect creating much of the mythology that surrounds her to this day. Though Hollywood versions of her story are jam-packed with anachronisms, embellishments, exaggerations and inaccuracies, the Cleopatras of Elizabeth Taylor, Vivien Leigh and Claudette Colbert do share with the real queen a love of pageantry. Ptolemy XIII rebelled against the armistice that Caesar had imposed, but in the ensuing civil war he drowned in the Nile, leaving Cleopatra safely in power. Caesar was assassinated in 44 B. To solidify her grip on the throne, she dispatched her rebellious sister Arsinoe as well. With all domestic threats removed, Cleopatra set about the business of ruling Egypt, the richest nation in the Mediterranean world, and the last to remain independent of Rome. What kind of pharaoh was Cleopatra? The few remaining contemporary Egyptian sources suggest that she was very popular among her own people. They would have spoken Greek and observed Greek customs, separating themselves from the ethnically Egyptian majority. But unlike her forebears, Cleopatra actually bothered to learn the Egyptian language. For Egyptian audiences, she commissioned portraits of herself in the traditional Egyptian style. In one papyrus dated to 35 B. Ancient sources make it clear that Cleopatra and Antony did love each other and that Cleopatra bore Antony three children; still, the relationship was also very useful to an Egyptian queen who wished to expand and protect her empire. Though some modern historians have portrayed Cleopatra as a capable, popular Egyptian leader, we tend to imagine her through Roman eyes. During her lifetime and in the century after her death, Roman propaganda, most of it originating with her enemy Octavian, painted Cleopatra as a dangerous harlot who employed sex, witchcraft and cunning as she grasped for power beyond what was proper for a woman. The poet Horace, writing in the late first century B. Cleopatra became a tragic heroine, with love of Antony her sole motivation. We know almost certainly that Cleopatra, along with her two most trusted servants, killed herself on August 12, 30 B. However, since the facts of her death were unclear even to the men who found the bodies, we will never know if it was the famous asp that killed the queen, or a smuggled vial of poison. The asp legend has prevailed, however, and the image of her death, more than anything else, gave Cleopatra immortality. In February , a recently discovered coin bearing a portrait of Cleopatra went on display at Newcastle University in England, sparking renewed interest in the queen and a debate about whether she was really as beautiful as we imagine. The coin, dated to 32 B. She looks nothing like Elizabeth Taylor. But ancient historians never characterized Cleopatra as a great beauty, and in her time she was not considered a romantic heroine. The character that attended all she said or did was something bewitching. The real Cleopatra had charisma, and her sexiness stemmed from her intelligenceâ€”what Plutarch described as "the charm of her conversation"â€”rather than her kohl-rimmed eyes.

Chapter 6 : Unraveling History: The Final Fates of the Children of Cleopatra VII? | Ancient Origins

Cleopatra considered herself divine in accordance with the religion of the times: Egyptian rulers were both governor and god/goddess. Cleopatra's father was king, and consequently also a god; she "inherited" the divine blood, so to speak.

The death of Cleopatra According to Plutarch, Cleopatra would rather die in Egypt than be taken alive to Rome, as she could not bear the thought of being separated from Antony. Plutarch relates part of the speech she made prior to her suicide: It is apparently soon after that she held a snake, known as an asp, to her breast and was bitten and killed. However, not everyone agrees that Cleopatra committed suicide. Another popular theory is that Cleopatra was murdered by Octavian so that he could take control over the Empire. Shortly before Octavian had arrived in Alexandria, Cleopatra sent her son Cizarian to Ethiopia for his own protection. Nevertheless, Cizarian was found and murdered. It may be possible that the tomb was not constructed as a grand monument, considering that it could be used as a rallying point against Octavian in the future. Hence, the tomb may have been regarded as insignificant, and neither the location nor a description of it was recorded for posterity. Despite the paucity of surviving information regarding the tomb of Antony and Cleopatra, it has remained as part of the story of Antony and Cleopatra. Over the ages, people have imagined how this tomb would have looked like. For instance, a 15 th century French manuscript contains a painting of the tomb of Antony and Cleopatra. In line with the ancient sources, the two lovers are buried together. Rather anachronistically, however, is the depiction of the tomb in the European Gothic style. The search for the tomb of Antony and Cleopatra Despite this interest, not much progress has been made in the search for this elusive tomb. Some have speculated that Cleopatra was interred in her palace, where she committed suicide. This palace is now under the sea, and the remains of the two lovers would not have survived if this was the case. In , it was announced by Zahi Hawass that the tomb of Antony and Cleopatra might have been found. The supposed site is a temple to Osiris known as Taposiris Magna built during the reign of Ptolemy II , and is located to the west of Alexandria. North View of Taposiris Magna Osiris Temple Wikimedia Commons The speculation that this might be the burial place of Antony and Cleopatra is based on the discovery of a damaged bust of Cleopatra, 22 coins bearing her image, and a mask supposedly belonging to Antony. Additionally, 27 tombs and 10 mummies were also discovered. For instance, one archaeologist suggests that it is unlikely that Octavian allowed his vanquished enemies to be buried in such a prestigious temple. It is likely that much more work will be needed before this ancient mystery can be satisfactorily solved.

Chapter 7 : Cleopatra | calendrierdelascience.com

*Cleopatra's People (Naomi Mitchison Library) [Naomi Mitchison, Isobel Murray] on calendrierdelascience.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. When Naomi Mitchison, queen of the historical novel, undertook Cleopatra, Queen of Egypt, already symbol of a great love story.*

Yes, Cleopatra in Space is totally a thing. More than 1, years before the reign of Elizabeth I of England, Cleopatra proved that women were capable of ruling nations, and that they could do it with intelligence, grace, and sometimes brutality. One of those two people was not actually Egyptian. That means they not only had Greek ancestry, they spoke Greek and followed Greek customs , too. So how did Egypt wind up in the hands of a bunch of helmet-wearing dudes from another continent? They conquered it, which was what the ancient Greeks often did when they were bored. The good news is the Egyptians were mostly cool with their non-Egyptian pharaoh because they were fed up with the Persians, who were the conquerors that came before the Alexandrian conquerors. There was some creepy Deliverance stuff in her background Incest, as it turns out, is not just for nasty Lannister Queens and Deliverance characters. It was practiced to some degree in pretty much every royal family from Europe to the Middle East, but the Egyptians practically turned it into a competitive sport. In Egyptian mythology, the god Osiris married his sister Isis in order to maintain the purity of the royal bloodline. Unfortunately for the Egyptian pharaohs, who saw the Egyptian gods as awesome role models, genetic disorders are a problem for mortals, but no one really understood that thousands of years ago. Anyway when the Ptolemys rose to power they were all, "Hey, incest sounds like a great idea! In keeping with their very gross noble family tradition, Cleopatra went on to marry not one but both of her younger brothers. She was smarter than she was beautiful Pretty much every modern and semi-modern depiction of Cleopatra tells us she was stunningly beautiful, which frankly does seem sort of incompatible with the whole generations of incest thing, but maybe it was a fluke. Then in February a coin was unearthed bearing a portrait of Cleopatra, which appears to confirm that the queen was actually rather ordinary-looking. Life of Antony, written by Plutarch in 75 A. The last multilingual president was Franklin Roosevelt, who was elected in and spoke French and German. She could actually speak the same language as the people she ruled Shutterstock Besides Greek, which was the native tongue of the Ptolemaic dynasty, Cleopatra spoke the languages of most neighboring people , including the Arabs, Jews, Parthians, Syrians, Ethiopians, Medes, and the Trogodytae. According to Ancient Origins , Cleopatra could speak the native Coptic and she could also read hieroglyphics. Cleopatra, unlike her predecessors, recognized the value of appealing to the cultural identity of the people she ruled, which is quite an evolved idea even for a lot of modern politicians. In Egypt it was customary for pharaohs to rule in pairs " every regent needed a co-regent of the opposite gender. In his will, Ptolemy XII decreed that Cleopatra should marry her year-old brother, which was probably only a ceremonial thing, but either way the two were clearly not fond of each other and the relationship ended with Ptolemy XIII trying to wrest control of the throne, and his sister appealing to Julius Caesar for help reining him in. Eventually Caesar defeated Ptolemy at the Battle of the Nile, and Ptolemy drowned in the river while trying to escape. Because of the whole "must have a co-regent thing," Cleopatra had to marry her other brother, who later died under "mysterious circumstances. According to the New York Times , the kohl was made from four different lead-based materials and was actually meant not as a beauty enhancer but to ward off eye infections. Cleopatra was pretty shrewd, so she might have understood the medicinal properties of the kohl, but most Egyptians thought it was magic. She and Mark Antony had their own drinking club Cleopatra was smart, shrewd, capable, and also kind of a party animal. But you probably would be too, if you had absolute power and Roman general Mark Antony was your boyfriend. Cleopatra and Antony even formed their own drinking club, which they named "Inimitable Livers. Probably the first one, but the second one is more fun. Anyway, according to Food and Wine and they would know , Inimitable Livers was officially dedicated to Dionysus, the god of wine. Unofficially, it was an excuse to have keg parties and pass out in puddles vomit. The club threw nightly "feasts and wine-binges," and then afterward Antony and Cleopatra would wander around the city in a state of drunken giddiness and play pranks on common Alexandrians. Modern politicians would

never, ever behave like that. She believed in the power of fragrance not just as a cosmetic but also as a tool of persuasion. Cleopatra, on the other hand, was not at all fussed about throwing her money away or more accurately, dissolving it to prove a point. She then requested a modest meal, and afterward had her servants bring her a cup of vinegar. Then, according to NBC , she took off one of her earrings, removed the pearl, dropped it in the vinegar, and watched it dissolve. Then she drank the cup of vinegar, thus proving that she would do just about anything to win a bet. Pliny the Elder said the pearl was "the largest in the whole of history," and a "remarkable and truly unique work of nature," but who knows how much they paid him to write that. Modern historians were more skeptical of the science until someone finally tested the theory with actual vinegar and an actual pearl. The test confirmed that vinegar does, in fact, dissolve the calcium carbonate in a pearl, but it would have likely taken longer than a day for the entire pearl to disappear. But still plausible, in a sinking-your-own-yacht kind of a way. She convinced Egypt she was the reincarnation of the goddess Isis

Shutterstock Most ancient rulers saw themselves as divine, even godlike. For Cleopatra, the whole ruler-as-divine thing was part ego, part public relations genius. According to scholar Elizabeth A. McCabe , Cleopatra called herself "the new Isis," telling her subjects she was the embodiment of Isis on Earth, or the reincarnation of the goddess. Not to be left out, Mark Antony also claimed to be the embodiment of Osiris on Earth. Remember the whole Isis marries her brother Osiris thing? Prior to that she was known to play whichever goddess happened to suit her. Antony was enamored, but those were different times. Imagine if the person you met on Match. According to the story, when Cleopatra learned her forces had been defeated by Octavian , who would become the first emperor of Rome, she calmly wrote a suicide note, handed it over to a guard, and then killed herself by holding a venomous snake to her breast. For a start, the story indicates that it only took a few minutes for her to die , but the venom of that particular kind of Egyptian snake actually takes a few hours to work, and is even occasionally survivable. She was the last Egyptian pharaoh Getty Images

The whole fratricide thing excluded, Cleopatra had mostly good intentions for the nation she ruled. According to ThoughtCo , she wanted Egypt to remain an independent state, and most of what she did except maybe the drinking club and the thing with the pearl was to that end. Unfortunately her dreams of a free Egypt died with her "€" after her suicide in the summer of 30 B. It was a while before Cleopatra was remembered fondly by anyone but her own people "€" the Romans undertook what could only be called a smear campaign , painting her as a harlot who seduced her way to power and practiced witchcraft to bring powerful men under her control. Even a couple hundred years later, poets were remembering her as "the shame of Egypt" and "the bane of Rome," which probably suited the male-dominated Roman leadership just fine. Try not to feel too bad for her, though. Cleopatra reigned for more than 20 years and had great success as a leader, enjoyed a life of luxury, and died on her own terms. Plus, she had that whole drinking club thing to help her pass the time. Things could have been a lot worse. Shutterstock Like pretty much every human being, Cleopatra had an innate desire to avoid getting older. Unfortunately, plastic surgeons were in short supply in first-century B. At first this might sound kind of like something the queen made up to keep her servants busy, but bathing in donkey milk was actually not just some crazy Cleopatraism. According to The Vintage News , all over the ancient world, women used donkey milk to keep their skin pale and to keep wrinkles at bay. Mark Antony was not most people. He skipped an entire invasion so he could spend the winter with Cleopatra in her Alexandrian palace. According to HistoryNet , in 41 B. Antony assembled an army and went east, summoning client-kings in hopes of gathering resources for a Parthian invasion. If Fulvia and Calpurnia had formed a scorned wives club, Roman history could have been a great CW series. Beyond that, we have no idea. Some historians think they were buried in Alexandria, most of which fell into the sea after an earthquake 1, years ago. Cleopatra considered herself and her lover to be living embodiments of Isis and Osiris, so a temple burial does seem possible. Archaeologist Kathleen Martinez found four burial chambers and more than artifacts at Taposiris Magna, many of which bear the likenesses of Cleopatra and Mark Antony. But so far, the tomb itself remains undiscovered. Cleopatra probably would have been mummified since she was known to have followed Egyptian customs and practices. Called "Ptolemy" after all the kajillions of Ptolemys who came before him, the unfortunate young man was murdered by the emperor Caligula, evidently because he looked too awesome in a purple robe. The list of possible descendants is a convoluted line of so-and-so might have begat so-and-so,

finally filtering down to one person who loudly proclaimed descent from Cleopatra:

Chapter 8 : Cleopatra - Wikipedia

Cleopatra (actually Cleopatra VII) was the daughter of Ptolemy Auletes (Ptolemy XII) and the wife of her brother -- as was the custom in Egypt -- Ptolemy XIII, and then, when he died, Ptolemy XIV. Cleopatra paid little attention to her spouses and ruled in her own right.

Entering Alexandria as an unpopular conqueror, Caesar restored the throne to the equally unpopular Cleopatra and her younger brother Ptolemy XIV then 13 years old. Caesar remained in Egypt with Cleopatra for a time, and around 47 B. Sometime in B. After Caesar was murdered in March 44 B. By this point, Cleopatra had strongly identified herself with the goddess Isis, the sister-wife of Osiris and mother of Horus. This was consistent with the ancient Egyptian tradition of associating royalty with divinity in order to reinforce the position of kings and queens. Still, unreliable flooding of the Nile resulted in failing crops, leading to inflation and hunger. Both sides asked for Egyptian support, and after some stalling Cleopatra sent four Roman legions stationed in Egypt by Caesar to support the triumvirate. According to the story recorded by Plutarch and later dramatized famously by William Shakespeare, Cleopatra sailed to Tarsus in an elaborate ship, dressed in the robes of Isis. Antony, who associated himself with the Greek deity Dionysus, was seduced by her charms. Cleopatra returned to Egypt, followed shortly thereafter by Antony, who left behind his third wife, Fulvia, and their children in Rome. He spent the winter of B. Antony again met with Cleopatra to obtain funds for his long-delayed military campaign against the kingdom of Parthia. They again became lovers, and Cleopatra gave birth to another son, Ptolemy Philadelphos, in 36 B. In a public celebration in 34 B. In late 32 B. Defeat and Death On September 2, 31 B. He fell on his sword, and died just as news arrived that the rumor had been false. On August 12, 30 B. The means of her death is uncertain, but Plutarch and other writers advanced the theory that she used a poisonous snake known as the asp, a symbol of divine royalty.

Cleopatra VII, often simply called "Cleopatra," was the last of a series of rulers called the Ptolemies who ruled Egypt for nearly years.

The reign of Cleopatra was that of a vigorous and exceptionally able queen who was ambitious, among other things, to revive the prestige of the dynasty by cultivating influence with powerful Roman life and reign. Daughter of King Ptolemy XII Auletes, Cleopatra was destined to become the last queen of the Macedonian dynasty that ruled Egypt between the death of Alexander the Great in 323 bce and its annexation by Rome in 30 bce. Cleopatra was of Macedonian descent and had little, if any, Egyptian blood, although the Classical author Plutarch wrote that she alone of her house took the trouble to learn Egyptian and, for political reasons, styled herself as the new Isis, a title that distinguished her from the earlier Ptolemaic queen Cleopatra III, who had also claimed to be the living embodiment of the goddess Isis. Coin portraits of Cleopatra show a countenance alive rather than beautiful, with a sensitive mouth, firm chin, liquid eyes, broad forehead, and prominent nose. The 18-year-old Cleopatra, older than her brother by about eight years, became the dominant ruler. Relief of Cleopatra as a goddess, c. 30 bce. Each was determined to use the other. Cleopatra was determined to keep her throne and, if possible, to restore the glories of the first Ptolemies and recover as much as possible of their dominions, which had included southern Syria and Palestine. Caesar and Cleopatra became lovers and spent the winter besieged in Alexandria. Cleopatra, now married to her brother Ptolemy XIV, was restored to her throne. Whether Caesar was the father of Caesarion, as his name implies, cannot now be known. It took Caesar two years to extinguish the last flames of Pompeian opposition. Cleopatra paid at least one state visit to Rome, accompanied by her husband-brother and son. Cleopatra was in Rome when Caesar was murdered in 44 bce. Cleopatra now ruled with her infant son, Ptolemy XV Caesar. She entered the city by sailing up the Cydnus River in a barge while dressed in the robes of the new Isis. Antony, who equated himself with the god Dionysus, was captivated. Antony had already left Alexandria to return to Italy, where he was forced to conclude a temporary settlement with Octavian. Three years later Antony was convinced that he and Octavian could never come to terms. His marriage to Octavia now an irrelevance, he returned to the east and reunited with Cleopatra. The Parthian campaign was a costly failure, as was the temporary conquest of Armenia. Nevertheless, in 34 bce Antony celebrated a triumphal return to Alexandria. Cleopatra was hailed as queen of kings, Caesarion as king of kings. Alexander Helios was awarded Armenia and the territory beyond the Euphrates, his infant brother Ptolemy the lands to the west of it. It was clear to Octavian, watching from Rome, that Antony intended his extended family to rule the civilized world. A propaganda war erupted. The rumour quickly spread that Antony also intended to transfer the capital from Rome to Alexandria. Antony and Cleopatra spent the winter of 32-31 bce in Greece. The Roman Senate deprived Antony of his prospective consulate for the following year, and it then declared war against Cleopatra. The naval Battle of Actium, in which Octavian faced the combined forces of Antony and Cleopatra on September 2, 31 bce, was a disaster for the Egyptians. Antony and Cleopatra fled to Egypt, and Cleopatra retired to her mausoleum as Antony went off to fight his last battle. Receiving the false news that Cleopatra had died, Antony fell on his sword. Cleopatra buried Antony and then committed suicide. The means of her death is uncertain, though Classical writers came to believe that she had killed herself by means of an asp, symbol of divine royalty. They were buried together, as both of them had wished, and with them was buried the Roman Republic. But Cleopatra had lived in a highly literate age, and her actions had influenced the formation of the Roman Empire; her story could not be forgotten. Octavian the future emperor Augustus was determined that Roman history should be recorded in a way that confirmed his right to rule. As Cleopatra had played a key role in his struggle to power, her story was preserved as an integral part of his. But it was diminished to just two episodes: Cleopatra, stripped of any political validity, was to be remembered as an immoral foreign woman who tempted upright Roman men. As such, she became a useful enemy for Octavian, who preferred to be remembered for fighting against foreigners rather than against his fellow Romans. This official Roman version of a predatory, immoral Cleopatra passed into Western culture, where it was retold and reinterpreted as the

years passed, until it evolved into a story of a wicked life made good by an honourable death. Meanwhile, Muslim scholars, writing after the Arab conquest of Egypt about ce, developed their own version of the queen. Their Cleopatra was first and foremost a scholar and a scientist, a gifted philosopher and a chemist. His was by no means the first revision of Cleopatra, nor was it to be the last, but his is the Cleopatra that has lingered longest in the public imagination. From Shakespeare stems a wealth of Cleopatra-themed artâ€™ plays, poetry, paintings, and operas. Theda Bara in the film Cleopatra,