

# Cleopatra VII

## The last Pharaoh of Egypt 69B.C.-30B.C.

### Why not colour Cleopatra in?

She was a queen, so her clothes would be very rich and colourful, have fun with this...

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_

Cleopatra's family were *Macedonian Greeks* that ruled *Egypt* for 275 years, from **305B.C. to 30B.C.**

Her ancestor was **Ptolemy I (Ptolemy Soter)**. He was a *Macedonian* general, also a close friend and bodyguard of **Alexander the Great**.

Cleopatra's father was **Ptolemy XII** and he lost his throne in a revolt, led by Cleopatra's eldest sister **Bernice IV** in 58B.C.

He fled to *Rome* with his younger daughter **Cleopatra** but returned in 55B.C. and with the help of the Roman army, **Bernice** was defeated and then beheaded.

**Ptolemy XII** died in 51B.C. leaving *Egypt* to be ruled by his surviving, loyal daughter **Cleopatra VII** and her younger brother **Ptolemy XIII**. They shared power together but soon had a falling out that led to a nasty civil-war in *Egypt*.

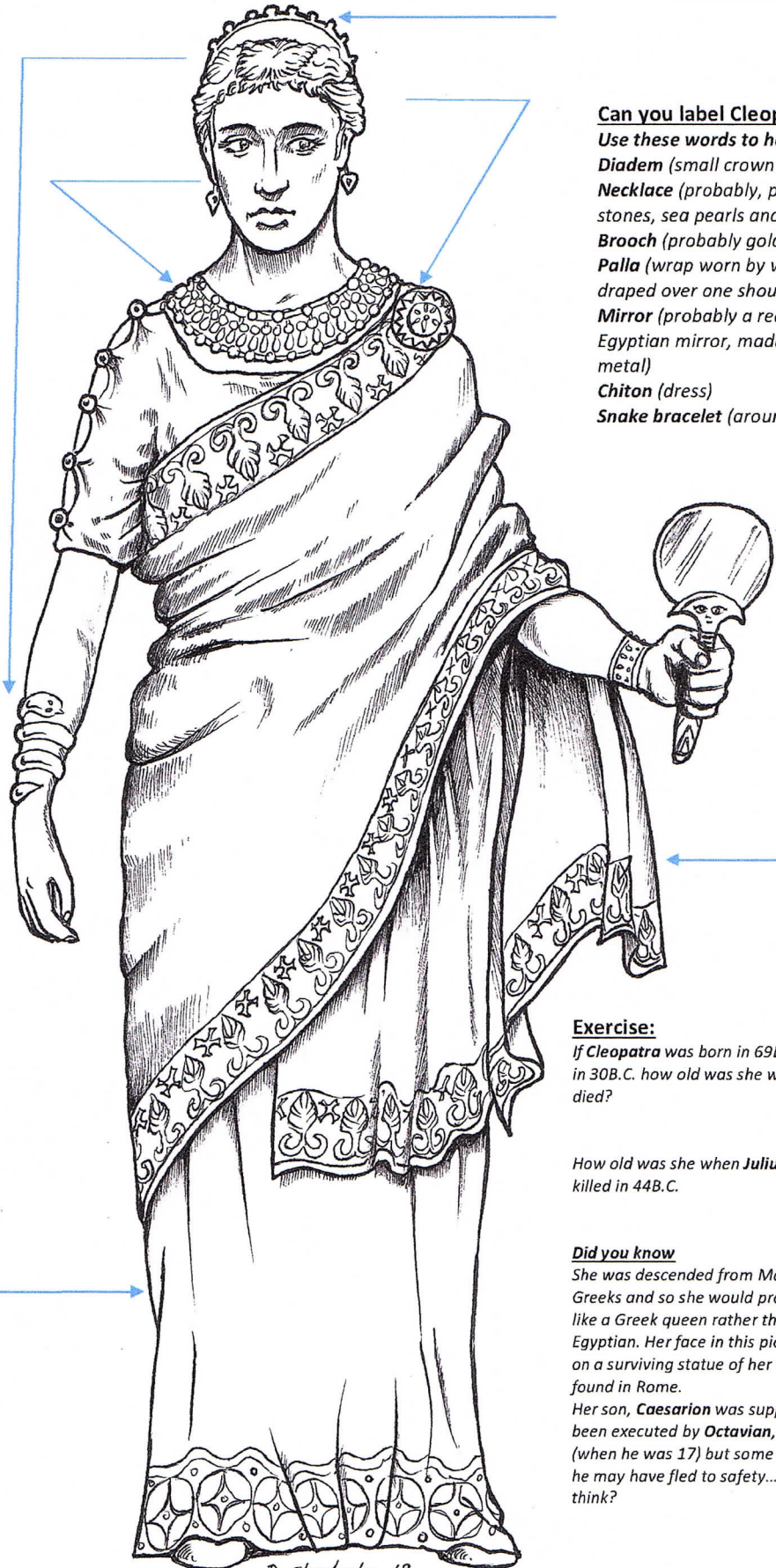
The Roman general, **Julius Caesar** tried to get **Cleopatra VII** and her brother **Ptolemy XIII** to make peace, but **Ptolemy** didn't trust **Caesar**, so he joined forces with Cleopatra's half-sister **Arsinoe IV**. He led an army that attacked **Caesar** and **Cleopatra** at their palace in *Egypt*, but more Romans came to **Caesar's** help and **Ptolemy XIII** was later killed at the **battle of the Nile** in 47B.C. **Arsinoe** was exiled (sent away) and **Julius Caesar** declared that **Cleopatra VII** should be queen of *Egypt* and share power with her even younger brother **Ptolemy XIV**.

Cleopatra had a son by **Caesar** called **Caesarion**.

In 44B.C. **Julius Caesar** was assassinated (killed) in *Rome* while **Cleopatra** was staying there with her son **Caesarion**. **Cleopatra** then tried to have her son succeed **Caesar** as ruler, but power went to **Caesar's** great nephew and adopted son **Octavian**. (He was later called **Augustus, Rome's first Emperor**).

She then arranged the murder of her younger brother **Ptolemy XIV**, to take full power in *Egypt* and joined with Roman general **Mark Anthony** against **Octavian**. (**Cleopatra** went on to have 3 children by **Mark Anthony**).

They fought against **Octavian** in a great sea battle (The **Battle of Actium** in 31B.C.) in which **Octavian's** general **Agrippa**, defeated their fleet of ships. **Octavian's** army then invaded *Egypt* in 30B.C. and **Mark Anthony** committed suicide. **Cleopatra**, the last Pharaoh of *Egypt* also took her own life, and according to legend she deliberately let a poisonous snake bite her!



### Can you label Cleopatra?

Use these words to help:

**Diadem** (small crown on her head)

**Necklace** (probably, polished stones, sea pearls and even gold)

**Brooch** (probably gold)

**Palla** (wrap worn by women, draped over one shoulder)

**Mirror** (probably a really ancient Egyptian mirror, made of polished metal)

**Chiton** (dress)

**Snake bracelet** (around her arm)

### Exercise:

If **Cleopatra** was born in 69B.C. and died in 30B.C. how old was she when she died?

How old was she when **Julius Caesar** was killed in 44B.C.

### Did you know

She was descended from *Macedonian Greeks* and so she would probably dress like a Greek queen rather than an ancient Egyptian. Her face in this picture is based on a surviving statue of her that was found in *Rome*.

Her son, **Caesarion** was supposed to have been executed by **Octavian**, in 30B.C. (when he was 17) but some people think he may have fled to safety... what do you think?