The Julio-Claudian Emperors
Fallout from Caesar’s Death

• Second Triumvirate formed
  – Mark Antony, Lepidus, and Octavian
• Leads to Civil War for control
  – Triumvirate vs Brutus and Cassius
  – Then war between members of Triumvirate
  – Caesar’s Nephew, Octavian, is eventual victor
Augustus (27 B.C.E. – 14 C.E.)

- AKA. Caesar Augustus, Augustus, Gaius Julius Caesar Augustus, Gaius Octavius, Octavian
- Took throne by beating or killing all political opponents
- Used Sister and Daughter as political tool
  - Forced divorces and marriages
Famous For....

• FIRST EMPEROR
• Consolidation of Empire under the rule of one person
  – Princeps
    • “First Citizen” – Full Imperator power for life (27 B.C.E.)
    • Makes sure that his heir is granted the same power
Famous For....

• Teutoburger Defeat
  – Losing three legions in Germania
    • Publius Varus leading legions and auxiliaries into forest
    • Ambushed by Germanic warriors
    • All killed or Enslaved
Tiberius (14 C.E. – 37 C.E.)

- Stepson of Augustus
- Celebrated General
- Seemed to hate power but want more of it
- Consolidated Rule
  - Killing off anyone else who might have claim (Verge of paranoia)
Caligula (37 C.E. – 41 C.E.)

• “little Boots”
• First two years ruled well
• After that power goes to his head and becomes obsessed with himself
Abuses of Caligula

- Exhausted State Treasury
- Incest?
- Killed for the fun of it
- Considered himself a god
- Made horse a priest?
- Sexual Fiend?
- Looting trip to Egypt
Claudius (41-54 C.E)

- Rise to Power by bribery
- Described as being a good emperor
  - Invaded Britain
  - Personally presided over matters of law
  - Public Works (Aqueducts)
- Heavily influenced by others
  - Convinced by wife to name her son Nero as heir
Nero (54 -68)

• Direct descendant of Augustus
• First part of rule he was just a puppet
  – Had puppet masters killed
• Thought of himself as an actor
The Burning of Rome (64 C.E.)

• 1/3 of Rome burned down
• Nero suspected of starting fire
  – Seen on a tower playing his lyre
  – Built massive pleasure palace on site
Death of a Dynasty

• 65 C.E. – Senatorial Conspiracy
  – Complained they had no power
• 67 C.E. – Rebellion in Gaul
  – Complained about taxes
• 68 C.E. – Praetorian Guard bribed to kill Nero