

Unit 10: Is Beauty Skin Deep?

Cleopatra

Keywords

| | | | | |
|---------|-----------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| context | elsewhere | equipment | pose | procedure |
| prompt | represent | restore | surgery | urge |

Chapter 1: Part of Egypt Comes to London

If you have a chance to visit London in England, there are many things you can do as a visitor. You can explore world-famous museums like the British Museum or enjoy a show at West End theaters. For those who love shopping, Oxford Street offers a wide range of stores from high-end brands to fast-fashion outlets. London is also known for its beautiful parks where you can take a break and enjoy nature in the middle of the busy city. From Green Park, it's an easy walk to the famous Buckingham Palace. One of the city's most famous landmarks is the River Thames, which flows right through the heart of London. A walk across Westminster Bridge offers a magnificent view of the Houses of Parliament, where the government meets.

If you continue your walk along the Thames, heading north for about 600 meters, you'll come across an unexpected sight. Standing tall on the riverbank is a large, ancient Egyptian stone object known as Cleopatra's Needle. This might seem out of place in London, but it is an interesting piece of history. Despite its name, Cleopatra's Needle was created around 1450 BC, long before Cleopatra, the famous queen of Egypt, was born. The object was a gift to the UK by the ruler of Egypt in the 19th century and **represents** the friendship between the two countries. Its twin can be found in New York City.

Seeing Cleopatra's Needle might make you curious about Cleopatra, the last active ruler of the Ptolemaic Kingdom of Egypt. She is famous for her beauty, intelligence, and her relationships with Julius Caesar and Mark Antony. Cleopatra's life was filled with excitement and power struggles, and her story has been the source of many books, movies, and plays. As you stand by Cleopatra's Needle beside the River Thames, you are touching a piece of history that links modern London to ancient Egypt and one of its most interesting figures. Let's find out about Cleopatra.

Chapter 2: Cleopatra's Beginnings

Cleopatra lived in Egypt more than 2000 years ago. As we all know, Egypt is **represented** by its big pyramids that were made when Egypt was the most powerful country in the region. But the pyramids were already very old in Cleopatra's time, and the most powerful people were the Romans, who had power in the Mediterranean area and **elsewhere**.

Cleopatra was the daughter of the king. When she was young, she learned many things, like speaking different languages. This was very special because not many people could speak different languages in those days. She had a brother called Ptolemy, and when her father died Egypt was divided between Cleopatra and Ptolemy. Cleopatra became queen in one part, and her brother became king in another part. This **posed** a problem for Cleopatra. Her brother wanted to be king of all Egypt. He wanted to **restore** Egypt to the way it was before his father had died.

Cleopatra's brother was powerful and had a lot of **equipment** for fighting wars. He also claimed that Cleopatra should not be queen because she had no children to become king or queen after her. This was the **context** in which Cleopatra found herself. She had to show everyone that she was a good leader. She wanted to make Egypt strong and free.

Chapter 3: Cleopatra and Julius Caesar

Then something important happened. Julius Caesar, a big leader from Rome, came to Egypt. Rome was very powerful, and Cleopatra thought being friends with Caesar could help her country. People **urged** Cleopatra to meet with Caesar, but there was a problem. Cleopatra's brother did not like her. She needed to meet Caesar without her brother knowing. Cleopatra had a smart idea. She decided to go inside a big, beautiful rug. Her helpers carried this rug to Caesar, telling him it was a present. When they opened the rug, Cleopatra came out. This surprise made Caesar very interested and **prompted** him to become friends with Cleopatra.

Hiding in the rug was a way for Cleopatra to meet Caesar in secret. She did not want her brother to know. This meeting started a big friendship. Cleopatra and Caesar made plans to help Egypt and Rome. Cleopatra's plan to hide in the rug was very smart. It showed she could think of good ideas to fix problems. People remember her for being not just a queen, but also clever and brave. Cleopatra and Caesar not only became friends, they fell in love and had a son together.

However, their happy life together was not to last. Four years after they met, Caesar was attacked and killed. If the attack had happened today, perhaps doctors could have saved Caesar with **surgery**. But in those days, medical **procedures** were very basic, and Caesar died. There followed a period of uncertainty, and Mark Antony, another important Roman leader, appeared in Cleopatra's life. Mark Antony was a leader in Rome after Caesar. Meeting him was an important moment for Cleopatra. She needed to maintain Egypt's strong connection with Rome, and Mark Antony was now a key figure in Roman politics.

Chapter 4: Cleopatra and Mark Antony

Cleopatra and Mark Antony started out as political friends, much like her connection with Caesar. Cleopatra realized that joining with Mark Antony was necessary for Egypt's future. However, as they spent time together, a deep love grew between them. Mark Antony was taken by Cleopatra's intelligence and beauty. Cleopatra saw in Mark Antony not only a lover but also a political friend. Together, they dreamed of a future where Egypt and Rome could be powerful together. This dream was something they both wanted more than anything.

Not everyone wanted this close relationship between Rome and Egypt. In Rome, some saw Cleopatra's influence over Mark Antony as a threat. Stories about the couple that were not true spread, and this caused political problems. Cleopatra and Mark Antony had to guard their relationship and their plans against these challenges.

Their love faced many tests. Rome was in a time of change and struggle. Mark Antony had to protect his position in Rome. Cleopatra had to do the same in Egypt. Their relationship was not just personal; it was also a political asset, something very important for both Rome and Egypt.

Despite the challenges, Cleopatra and Mark Antony truly loved each other. They had three children together and shared many dreams. But their story was not just about love. It was also about their fight to keep their power and protect their countries. Cleopatra and Mark Antony's story is also a history lesson. It shows us how the personal lives of leaders can affect whole countries. Their love was not just a private matter; it had a big effect on the politics of their time.

Chapter 5: A Sad Ending

In the end, their story had a sad conclusion. They faced many difficult things, both personal and political. The pressure from Rome was too much. Octavian, a rising leader in Rome, who

wanted to replace Mark Antony, saw his connection to Cleopatra as a challenge to his power. The conflict between Mark Antony and Octavian eventually led to a great fight. This fight was not just a fight between the two of them; it was also a struggle for the future of Rome and Egypt. Mark Antony and Cleopatra fought hard, but their forces were beaten by Octavian. This was a big blow to their plans and dreams, and after the fight, they both took their own lives.

Cleopatra and Mark Antony's story teaches us about love and power. It shows that even the most powerful leaders face challenges. Their story is a part of history that makes us think of the human side of famous people and the struggles they face. Cleopatra, the last leader of the Ptolemaic Kingdom of Egypt, was known for her intelligence and political skill. She spoke many languages and was skilled in using connections. Cleopatra's life was full of decisions aimed at saving her country. She truly understood the importance of her role as a leader. Her relationships with Julius Caesar and Mark Antony were not just about love; they were also about political connections. Cleopatra used these relationships as assets to make Egypt's position in the Mediterranean world stronger. Her death marked the end of an age in Egyptian history, as the country became a part of the Roman Empire.

Cleopatra's life shows us that history is not just about fights and politics; it's also about the people who lived, loved, and made decisions that shaped the world. Their stories are a mix of reality and stories, and they continue to entertain us today.

In the end, Cleopatra was much more than just a figure from the past. She was a woman who lived a complex life in challenging times. Her story, a mix of love, war, beauty, and power, shows us that history is truly about the people who lived it. She was not just a character in a story; she was a real woman who had a lasting effect on the world. Her life continues to be a part of our history, showing us that the past is full of interesting stories waiting to be told.

Questions

1. What is NOT suggested as something to do in London?
 - A) Visiting the British Museum
 - B) Shopping on Oxford Street
 - C) Taking a break in a park
 - D) Visiting Cleopatra's Palace
2. What was a unique skill of Cleopatra in her time?
 - A) Speaking multiple languages
 - B) Writing books
 - C) Painting
 - D) Sculpting
3. Who was Cleopatra's brother?
 - A) Julius Caesar
 - B) Mark Antony
 - C) Octavian
 - D) Ptolemy
4. How did Cleopatra first meet Julius Caesar?
 - A) She met him at a royal gathering.
 - B) She met him by hiding in a rug.
 - C) She met him through a letter.
 - D) She met him on a battlefield.

5. What was Cleopatra's primary goal as a leader?
 - A) To conquer Rome
 - B) To make Egypt strong and free
 - C) To write a book
 - D) To learn new languages
6. What happened to Caesar four years after meeting Cleopatra?
 - A) He became the emperor of Rome.
 - B) He left Egypt.
 - C) He was attacked and killed.
 - D) He married Cleopatra.
7. Who became an important figure in Cleopatra's life after Caesar?
 - A) Ptolemy
 - B) Her son
 - C) Mark Antony
 - D) Octavian
8. What was the nature of Cleopatra's relationship with Mark Antony initially?
 - A) Enemies
 - B) Lovers
 - C) Siblings
 - D) Political allies
9. Why did some in Rome view Cleopatra negatively?
 - A) Her influence over Mark Antony
 - B) Her wealth
 - C) Her language skills
 - D) Her Egyptian heritage
10. What was a key aspect of Cleopatra and Mark Antony's relationship?
 - A) Their political and personal connection
 - B) Their common hobbies
 - C) Their shared religion
 - D) Their dislike of Rome

Vocabulary Review

context: the situation or setting

Example: *This was the **context** in which Cleopatra found herself.* (Chapter 2)

elsewhere: in another place

Example: *But the pyramids were already very old in Cleopatra's time, and the most powerful people were the Romans, who had power in the Mediterranean area and **elsewhere**.* (Chapter 2)

equipment: tools or items used for a specific purpose

Example: *Cleopatra's brother was powerful and had a lot of **equipment** for fighting wars.* (Chapter 2)

pose: to create a particular situation or problem.

Example: *This **posed** a problem for Cleopatra.* (Chapter 2)

procedure: a way of doing something

Example: *But in those days, medical **procedures** were very basic, and Caesar died.* (Chapter 3)

prompt: to cause or bring about

Example: *This surprise made Caesar very interested and **prompted** him to become friends with Cleopatra.* (Chapter 3)

represent: to symbolize or stand for

Example: *The object was a gift to the UK by the ruler of Egypt in the 19th century and **represents** the friendship between the two countries.* (Chapter 1)

restore: to bring back or return to a previous state

Example: *He wanted to **restore** Egypt to the way it was before his father had died.* (Chapter 2)

surgery: medical operation

Example: *If the attack had happened today, perhaps doctors could have saved Caesar with **surgery**.* (Chapter 3)

urge: to strongly recommend or encourage

Example: *People **urged** Cleopatra to meet with Caesar, but there was a problem.* (Chapter 3)