

Marcus Aurelius
Commodus
Antoninus



Basics



- Son Marcus Aurelis and Faustina
- Born in Lanuvium 161 CE
- Spent teen years on the frontlines with his father
- Educated intellectually, not militarily
- After father's death, surrendered to tribes, people had high hopes, thought he would rule like his father

Ruler



- Coins showed him as warrior
- Popular for most of his rule
- Generous
- Taxed the Senatorial class
 - Made him popular with the people
 - But disliked in the Senate

Megalomaniac

- **Obsessed with Hercules**
 - Carried lion skin and club
- Fought in the Coliseum (always won)
 - Considered scandalous
 - Charged 1 million sesterces/fight (lots of \$\$)



Megalomania 2

- Great archer
- Refounded Rome (so he could claim himself as the founder)
- Renamed the months to correspond with his titles
- Renamed the population *Commodianus*
- Made the years correspond to his age

Titles

- Caesar age 5
- Germanicus age 11
- Imperator age 16
- Co-Augustus age 17
- Emperor age 19
- God age 29
- Dead age 31



Death

- Several attempts made on his life
- On 31 December 192, an athlete *Narcissus* strangled him in the baths
- Senate rolled back most of his changes
- After him the year of the five emperors

