

# Marcus Aurelius Commodus Antoninus

- Son Marcus Aurelius and Faustina
- Born in Lanuvium 161 CE
- Spent teen years on the frontlines with his father
- Educated intellectually, not militarily

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



## Megalomania

- Obsessed with Hercules
  - Carried lion skin and a club
- Fought in the Coliseum (always won)
  - Considered scandalous
  - Charged 1 million sesterces/fight (lots of \$\$)
- Great archer
- Refounded Rome (so he could claim himself as the founder)
- Renamed the months to correspond with his titles
- Renamed the population *Commodianus*



- After father's death, surrendered to tribes, people had high hopes, thought he would rule like his father
- 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

- 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

# extravagant, violent, crazy

# Questions:

1. Why was Commodus murdered?
2. Why do you think he was crazy?
3. Did his intellectual education cause him to rebel?

# Sources:

1. “Commodus” Wikipedia
2. “Commodus” Encarta (pay edition)
3. <http://www.roman-emperors.org/commode.htm>



Play2