

THE LIFE OF OCTAVIAN/AUGUSTUS

➔ SOURCE 1

<https://www.thefamouspeople.com/profiles/gaius-julius-caesar-augustus-779.php>

Augustus, also called Octavian, adopted name Gaius Julius Caesar Octavianus, was the founder of the Roman Empire and its first Emperor. He first gained prominence after delivering the funeral speech for his grandmother Julia as a young boy and some years later, he was elected to the College of Pontiffs. While studying and undergoing his military training in Illyria, he heard of his maternal great-uncle Julius Caesar's assassination. Caesar had no legitimate heir under the Roman law and hence had named Octavian as his adopted son and heir, who gladly accepted the will and travelled to Italia to claim his inheritance. But he soon realized that the road to inheritance wasn't that simple as Mark Antony, Caesar's old ally and friend had taken hold of Caesar's assets and the papers. After several political alignments, wars and treaties he finally received his due.

➔ SOURCE 2

Augustus' family tree.
View at http://www.pbs.org/empires/romans/special/family_tree.html

➔ SOURCE 3

<https://sites.google.com/site/latin4lifeofaugustus/home/augustus-early-life>

[Augustus'] father was Gaius Octavius, a descendant of the respectable family line of Octavii, and his mother, Atia Balba Caesonia, made him the great-nephew of Julius Caesar ... [The family] were members of the aristocracy as well as wealthy in their banking business.

... [When Gaius Octavius died unexpectedly], four year old Augustus was thus left without a father figure.

Atia ... took up Augustus' education from there on, giving him the normal education of a wealthy, young aristocrat ... At six years old, Augustus' mother remarried to Lucius Marcius Philippus, who is thought to have loved his stepchildren and was consul during 56 BC ...

At the age of twelve, Augustus gave the funeral oration ... for his grandmother Julia Caesaris, the sister of Julius Caesar. Because of this phenomenal speech ... Augustus gained the attention of Julius Caesar. This started Caesar's large interest in Augustus and his enormous role in furthering Augustus' career.

ACTIVITY

TASK

Examine Sources 1–3 above and complete the task that follows.

Write down a response to the statement, 'Right from the beginning, Octavian/Augustus was destined for greatness.' Use evidence to support your response.
