**ANSWERS Sulla Reading Questions**

Read the web page below and answer the following questions:

[Rome's brutal dictator: Lucius Cornelius Sulla - History Skills](https://www.historyskills.com/classroom/ancient-history/anc-sulla-reading/)

1. How did the young Sulla become wealthy?

Sulla became wealthy after the deaths of his stepmother and lover, both of whom left him considerable sums of money.

1. Where did Sulla get his first military experience and who did he work with?

Sulla got his first military experience in the Jugurthine War, where he served as a lieutenant under Gaius Marius.

1. What was Sulla’s role in the ending of the Jugurthine War?

Sulla played a key role in ending the Jugurthine War by negotiating with one of Jugurtha's allied leaders to betray the Numidian king, leading to Jugurtha's capture.

1. What did Sulla have to do to get elected as a praetor?

Sulla was elected to the position of praetor primarily by encouraging people to vote for him through the provision of lavish, free games for the Roman people.

1. What was Sulla’s role in the Social War?

In the Social War, Sulla served as one of Rome's commanders under consul Lucius Julius Caesar and helped defeat the rebel forces in a series of battles.

1. What had happened in the east of the Roman territories that needed urgent attention?

The kingdom of Pontus, under King Mithridates VI, had been expanding its empire in Asia Minor and had even seized parts of mainland Greece, posing a significant threat to Roman territories.

1. What did Marius do once Sulla was given the command against Mithridates?

Marius used his political power to manipulate the Senate and forced them to reassign the command against Mithridates to himself instead.

1. What did Sulla do, which had never been done before?

Sulla led a Roman army against their own capital city, Rome, which was a monumental moment in the history of ancient Rome.

1. What did Marius do once Sulla had left to fight Mithridates?

Marius and his supporters regained control of Rome, declared Sulla a 'public enemy', and ordered the execution of some of Sulla’s most loyal supporters in the city.

1. In what year did Sulla march on Rome for the second time?

Sulla marched on Rome for the second time in 83 BC.

1. Who were the two new commanders that helped Sulla win the Battle of the Colline Gate?

The two new commanders who helped Sulla win the Battle of the Colline Gate were Pompey and Crassus.

1. How long did Sulla become dictator for?

Sulla became dictator in 82 BC and stepped down from the position in 81 BC, making his dictatorship last for about a year.

1. What limitations did Sulla place upon the Tribune of the Plebs?

Sulla required all laws proposed by the tribunes to be first approved by the Senate and declared that anyone holding the position of Tribune of the Plebs would be banned from holding any other political role in Rome for the rest of their lives.

1. What happened in the ‘proscriptions’?

During the 'proscriptions', Sulla displayed lists of people’s names in public places throughout Italy. The people named on these lists were considered 'enemies of the Roman state' and could be legally hunted and killed by anyone.

1. How did Crassus use the proscriptions to his advantage?

Crassus reportedly made a fortune by writing men's names on the proscription lists so that he could seize their houses after they were killed. He also bought the property of those who had been killed at a reduced price.

1. What did Sulla do to Marius?

Sulla ordered the corpse of Marius to be removed from its grave and torn to pieces.

1. What role did Sulla have in the government during 80 BC?

Sulla served as consul in 80 BC.

1. How did Sulla die?

He died in 78 BC at the age of 60, apparently while yelling orders to have one more of his enemies executed.

1. What did Sulla seem to want to fix during his life?

Sulla seemed to want to restore stability to the Senate and prevent any other Roman from seizing power in the same way that he himself had done. His political reforms were aimed at strengthening the power of the Senate, reducing the power of the Tribune of the Plebs, and creating a strict order in which Roman political positions could be held.

**Paragraph Writing**

Based upon what you learnt in your reading, answer the following question in paragraph format (Topic Sentence, Explanation, Evidence, Concluding Sentence):

*What did Sulla do that caused him to be remembered as a bloody tyrant?*

Lucius Cornelius Sulla is remembered as a bloody tyrant primarily due to his unprecedented actions during his dictatorship. He initiated the "proscriptions," a series of public death lists that named thousands of his political enemies, including a third of the senators, equites, and even some common citizens. These individuals were declared 'enemies of the Roman state' and could be legally hunted and killed by anyone, leading to widespread chaos and fear. Sulla also used his absolute power to execute or exile his political rivals, and he notoriously ordered the corpse of his rival Marius to be removed from its grave and torn to pieces. These actions, combined with his brutal military campaigns and his two marches on Rome, painted a picture of a ruthless and bloodthirsty leader.