Sulla’s First March On Rome This amazing, brilliant artwork is by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| As a result of his success in helping to end the Social War, he was elected consul for the first time in 88 BC, at around the age of 50.  As consul, Sulla was assigned the task of leading Rome's armies against Mithridates VI of Pontus. Sulla was delighted with this appointment, as it would almost guarantee him wealth and glory. | The command over the Mithridatic War, as it would come to be known, was so sought after that many people had campaigned for the consulship in order to obtain it.  Sulla's army from the Social War was stationed at the nearby Italian city of Nola, and Sulla travelled there to tell his men the good news about the command against Mithridates. Sulla boasted to his men that they too were going to benefit from the imminent money and fame. | However, while preparing for departure with his army, Sulla received word that after he had left Rome, Marius had used his political power to manipulate the Senate and forced them to reassign the command against Mithridates to himself instead.  He achieved this with the help of one of the Plebeian Tribunes, and with the use of violence. | Marius desperately wanted the wealth and glory for himself and refused to allow his long-time rival to get the benefits of the war. | When this information was shared with Sulla, he was outraged. Not only was he about to lose a potential opportunity to earn a lot of money from this war, but Sulla could also not accept that his sworn political enemy would get it in his place. |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Also, Sulla was maddened that Marius would use corrupt means to steal away something that he had rightfully earned.  Sulla told his waiting army of the events in Rome and stressed the fact that they had been robbed of everything he had promised them. | Sulla's men were so angered that when messengers arrived from Marius to inform them of the change in command, Sulla’s soldiers stoned them to death. | Then, with the encouragement of his men, Sulla announced that he was going to march them to Rome in order to free the city from the tyranny of Marius. | The city was clearly not expecting such an aggressive move and there were no defenders ready for an attack.  When he arrived, Sulla was able to simply march into Rome unopposed. His forces quickly took control of the Senate and Marius, with his supporters, were forced to flee to northern Africa for safety. | With Rome under his control, Sulla then installed trusted allies in the Senate who reconfirmed his command against Mithridates.  Then, Sulla ensured that the Senate declared that Marius and his supporters were 'public enemies' (*hostes* in Latin), which meant that they could be killed on sight by any loyal Roman. |