

## Augustus

### What would you do if you had great power?

**When did he live?** 63 BC–AD 14

**Where did he live?** Rome

**What did he do?** As the leader of Rome, Augustus made many improvements in the city. He created a fire department and a police force to protect the city's people. He built new aqueducts and repaired old ones to increase Rome's water supply. Augustus also worked on improving and expanding Rome's road network.

**Why is he important?** As Rome's first emperor, Augustus is one of the most significant figures in Roman history. Almost singlehandedly, he changed the nature of Roman government forever. But Augustus is also known for the great monuments he had built around Rome. He built a new forum that held statues, monuments, and a great temple to the god Mars. In writing about his life, Augustus declared, "I found Rome a city of brick and left it a city of marble."

**Identifying Points of View** Why do you think many Romans greatly admired Augustus?

Augustus was responsible for the construction of many impressive buildings in Rome.

### KEY EVENTS

- **45 BC** Julius Caesar adopts Octavian as his son and heir.
- **44 BC** Octavian moves to Rome when Caesar dies.
- **42 BC** Octavian and Antony defeat Brutus.
- **31 BC** Octavian defeats Antony.
- **27 BC** Octavian takes the name Augustus and becomes emperor of Rome.

