Julius Caesar predicted that he would be the most famous Roman of all, and indeed, his legacy can be found all over Rome, from street names to tin soldiers. So who was this most famous of all Romans? Julius Caesar was born on July 12th or 13th in our calendar year 100 bce, supposedly by "caesarean section," although this tidbit about his life probably started long ago as an urban legend. Also legendary was his family history. The Julians had a long history that traced itself back to Iulus, whose father, Aeneas, was a son of the goddess Venus. Thus, the Julians claimed to be particularly noble and ancient. As a member of one of Rome's oldest patrician family, Julius Caesar's life was directed along the "cursus honorum," the way of honor. To prepare for his political career, he was well-schooled in reading, writing, mathematics, public speaking and law, and was probably taught by a private tutor. His adult life began when he turned 16. In that year, like other young Roman boys, he donned the toga, a Roman symbol of manhood and began to ready himself for political office. At prescribed times in his life Caesar would have to campaign for election beginning with the position of Quaestor, the lowest of political offices for a patrician. The ladder of success then led to aedile, praetor, and finally, consul, the highest position achieved by only a few. When Caesar was 18 his progress was slowed when he had to flee the persecutions of Rome's dictator Lucius Cornelius Sulla. Caesar went east to join the Roman army, where he achieved great success and was even awarded the corona civica, or the civic crown made of common oak leaves woven together on the field of battle. The civic crown was awarded to military heroes who selflessly risked their lives to save fellow soldiers. When Caesar returned to Rome, with honors, he successfully climbed the cursus honorom to hold political offices, each of greater importance than the previous, eventually becoming Consul, and voted dictator for life. The center of Roman political life was the Forum Romanum, the great public area that lay in the center of the city. It is here that Caesar would have spent many hours of his day. In 63 bce Caesar was elected to be the pontifex maximus of Rome the highest priestly office any man could hold. As the Pontifex Maximus, Caesar lived in a public house along the Forum Romanum. Part of the complex was shared with the vestal virgins, six women who had been dedicated to the goddess Vesta since they were children. Today, these ruins are what are left of Caesar's home and the beautiful gardens the vestals once walked in. While Caesar lived here as Pontifex Maximus, he worked to revise the complicated, outmoded and inaccurate Roman calendar into a new one of 12 months and 365 days with an added leap day every four years in February. This allowed the seasons and months to fall the same every year. In honor of him, the calendar was known as the Julian calendar, and the two months he added, originally Inuius and Quintilis, were renamed after him and his successor—July (Julius) and August (Augustus)