

HERMANN

(17 B.C.E.-21 C.E.)

Also Known As Arminius



**BIOGRAPHY WORKBOOK
FOR HIGH SCHOOL**

HERMANN (a.k.a. Arminius)
(17 B.C.E.-21 C.E.)

Hermann, the Arminius of the Roman historians, was the son of Sigimer (or Segimerus), chief of the Germanic tribe the Cherusci. Hermann was born about 17 B.C.E. Being sent in early youth as a hostage to Rome, probably in consequence of the victories of Drusus, which had established the supremacy of Rome over the Catti, Cherusci, and other tribes of North Germany, Herman obtained the favor of Augustus, and was inscribed among the Roman knights. Hermann attained Roman citizenship, and trained as a Roman military commander.

1. Who was Hermann's father?

On Hermann's return to his native country, he resolved to deliver it from the Romans, whose oppression had become intolerable. Quintilius Varus, a rapacious man, was then the Roman governor in Germania. Varus had held office in Syria, where he had ruled with great harshness.

Fancying that Varus might act in the same way toward the fierce tribes of the North, he roused among them a bitter hatred of the Romans.

2. Who was the Roman governor of Germania?



Hermann's triumph over the Romans.

They found in Hermann a leader of extraordinary bravery and resource. He laid his plans with the chiefs of the Catti, Bructeri, and other tribes that lived between the Rhine and the Albis (Elbe), some of which broke out into insurrection. Hermann then offered Varus his assistance in reducing them to subjection, and thus led him to advance some distance from the Rhine into the interior. Varus began his march with three legions, six cohorts, and a body of cavalry, and Hermann served him as a guide through the wilds.

The Romans were thus drawn into an ambushade in the Teutoburg forest, and found themselves all at once surrounded by numerous bodies of Germans, who were directed by Hermann himself. The Romans fought desperately. But, being unacquainted with the localities, and unable to form their ranks owing to the thickness of the forests and the marshy nature of the ground, the Romans were defeated after a three days' battle with the Germans, who destroyed them in detail. At last, Varus, being wounded and seeing no chance of escape, fell upon his sword, and the other chief officers followed his example.

3. How did Hermann trick Varus?

The Roman legions were entirely destroyed, and the cavalry alone cut their way through the enemy and regained the banks of the Rhine. By this defeat the Romans lost all their conquests beyond that river. Although Germanicus some years after again carried their arms to the Weser, the Romans never established anything like a solid dominion over those regions.

The defeat of Varus occurred, according to various chronologists, in the year 763 of Rome (9 C.E.). The scene of the defeat is conjectured to have been in the country of the Bructeri, near the sources of the Ems and the Lippe. The news of this calamity, the greatest that had befallen the Roman arms since the defeat of Crassus, was received with universal amazement and terror. The despairing cry of Augustus, "Varus, Varus, give me back my legions!" testified to the consternation even at Rome, where it was expected that the barbarians would take a terrible

revenge for the wrongs they had suffered.

If Roman year 763 equates to the modern-numbered year 9 C.E., ascertain the Roman years for the following modern-numbered years:

- 4. 1 C.E. _____
- 5. 44 B.C.E. _____

The fears of invasion, however, were not realized. L. Asprena guarded the banks of the Rhine, and the Germans were too little united among

themselves to attack the Empire. In the following year, Augustus sent Tiberius to the Rhine with a fresh army; but he does not seem to have effected anything of importance.

- 6. Why were the Germanic barbarians unable or unwilling to attack the Roman Empire?

Word Search Puzzle

H	E	R	M	A	N	N	O	I	S	N	E	S	S	I	D
A	N	B	A	R	B	A	R	I	A	N	S	U	U	E	O
M	G	E	R	M	A	N	I	C	G	Y	C	O	B	R	M
P	B	W	Q	I	U	G	M	H	H	T	Q	I	J	U	I
C	O	D	T	N	G	P	I	L	U	I	D	C	E	T	N
A	L	V	R	I	U	V	N	A	I	M	R	A	C	C	I
C	H	E	R	U	S	C	I	K	D	A	E	P	T	E	O
Z	E	U	S	S	T	K	O	J	T	L	S	A	I	J	N
R	X	H	P	M	U	I	R	T	J	A	E	R	O	N	A
O	P	P	R	E	S	S	I	O	N	C	F	N	N	O	Y
M	F	M	A	R	O	B	O	D	U	U	S	X	S	C	B
A	Y	W	D	E	T	N	I	A	U	Q	C	A	N	U	Z
N	T	S	E	R	O	F	G	R	E	B	O	T	U	E	T

Word Search Terms
Arminius
Augustus
barbarians
calamity
Cherusci
conjecture
dissension
dominion
Germanic
Hermann
Maroboduus
oppression
rapacious
Roman
subjection
Teutoberg forest
triumph
Tusnelda
unacquainted

In the meantime, Hermann quarrelled with Segestes, chief of the Catti, whose daughter Tusnelda, he had carried off and married against her father's consent. When Germanicus, after the death of Augustus, marched into the interior of Germany to avenge the defeat of Varus, he was assisted by Segestes, and also by the Chauci and other tribes. In the first battle against Hermann, his wife Tusnelda was taken prisoner by the Romans, and she afterward figured in the triumph of Germanicus. Germanicus, having reached the scene of Varus's defeat, paid funeral honors to the remains of the legions. But Hermann, who was hovering about his line of march, without coming to a pitched battle, harassed him in his retreat, and occasioned a great loss to Cæcina, the lieutenant of Germanicus.

7. Who was Hermann's wife?

In the following year, Germanicus advanced again as far as the Visurgis, or Weser, where he found Hermann encamped ready for battle. A desperate fight took place, in which Hermann, after performing prodigies of valor, was defeated, and escaped with difficulty. But the victory was

gained at such cost that Germanicus and his army had to take refuge in their ships, nor did the Romans ever again attempt the conquest of the fiercer German tribes. When Tiberius recalled Germanicus, he observed that the Cherusci, Bructeri, and other unsubdued tribes, might be left to their own internal dissensions. Tiberius seems to have guessed right.

No sooner had the Romans been driven off, than Hermann had to protect his people against an internal danger. Maroboduus, the chief of the Marcomanni, a man of great ambition, had by treachery or by open fighting, made himself master of several neighboring tribes. Hermann began to fear his designs, and after the defeat of Varus, warned him of his peril by sending him the Roman general's head.

8. Whose head did Hermann send to Maroboduus?

When Germanicus finally left the country, Hermann declared war against Maroboduus, and, being joined by the Semnones and Longobards, defeated him on the borders of the Hercynian forest, broke up his kingdom, and drove him from Germany. The fugitive applied to

Hermann

Rome for assistance. Tiberius then sent his son Drusus into the Illyricum. But the Romans did not advance beyond the Danube, and Hermann remained unmolested in Northern Germany.

9. Where did Hermann defeat Maroboduus?

Shortly after, however, Hermann was killed by his own

relatives, being accused, as it would seem, of aspiring to absolute dominion. He died around the age of forty, in the twenty-first year of the Common Era, after being for twelve years the leader and champion of Germania.

10. For how long did Hermann rule over Germania as its champion?

Vocabulary Terms

Directions: Each term is used in the text. Match each term to its definition.

11. ____ a great disaster or misfortune
12. ____ act of bringing under control
13. ____ desire for achievement
14. ____ dismay
15. ____ formation of a theory without proof
16. ____ greedy and plundering
17. ____ military troops on horseback
18. ____ not informed
19. ____ revolt or resistance to governmental authority
20. ____ sovereign authority
21. ____ strong disagreement
22. ____ uncivilized people
23. ____ unjust exercise of power or authority
24. ____ victory

Terms

- (A) ambition
- (B) barbarians
- (C) calamity
- (D) cavalry
- (E) conjecture
- (F) consternation
- (G) dissension
- (H) dominion
- (I) insurrection
- (J) oppression
- (K) rapacious
- (L) subjection
- (M) triumph
- (N) unacquainted

Artistic Expression

Illustrate an event from Hermann's life.

