

疯狂英语阅读：Cleopatra, Goddess of the Nile PDF转换可能丢失图片或格式，建议阅读原文

https://www.100test.com/kao_ti2020/235/2021_2022__E7_96_AF_E7_8B_82_E8_8B_B1_E8_c96_235528.htm Three centuries later, shortly before the birth of Christ, Egypt was still ruled by a living goddess, Cleopatra, a Greek 1) descended from one of Alexander ' s generals. She looked back to the Golden Age of 2) Alexander ' s world empire and was determined to do even better herself. Alexander died at the age of 32. By the time Cleopatra was 23, she had gone even further than Alexander making her entrance into Rome as Queen of Egypt and 3) consort of Julius Caesar, the most powerful man in the world. These were complex times. To keep your 4) throne, you had to be 5) adaptable, 6) ruthless, intelligent and a great politician. Cleopatra had all these 7) traits which is why history has provided us with lots of 8) interpretations of Cleopatra. 9) Renaissance poets saw her as a 10) heroine dying for love. And painters 11) alluded to her 12) eroticism in their 13) bare breasted portrayals of the dying queen. Hollywood 14) reinforced the image of Cleopatra as a 15) vamp starting with Theda Bara ' s 16) seductive portrayal in 1917. But who was the real Cleopatra? What did she really look like? We ' re in Berlin because this is the best portrait of Cleopatra in the world. There are very few ancient 17) sculptures that are existing. So this is probably as close as we ' re ever going to get to how she really looked. She ' s rather plain looking, isn ' t she? Look at her hair. It ' s tied up in a simple 18) bun. It ' s a classical Greek hairstyle. It ' s practical but not exactly designed to 19) captivate a

Roman general. We know from ancient sources that her hair was a reddish color, wavy. But look at her nose. It ' s a little bit too long and hooked at the end. And her mouth, is not exactly 20)sensual. She ' s not wearing any jewelry. There are no earrings, no necklace. This is not the portrait of a 21)femme fatale. The ancient 22)sources tell us she was intelligent, 23)witty, charming, a 24)linguist and along with this, she had a tremendous determination. It was this amazing combination of abilities that made Cleopatra the most famous woman in history. It wasn ' t her beauty. Women in Egypt had always been powerful: Queen 25)Hatshepsut, 26)Nefertiti and now Cleopatra. But during the era of the 27)Ptolemy ' s, the role of Greek women had changed. They gained an identity apart from that of their husbands or families. Women participated in the arts and 28)civic life and marriage became a union of two people, not just two houses. The portraits of the women of this period show strong individuals looking back at you with confidence. They ' re almost 29)haunting. Women would not have this power again until the 20th century. Cleopatra was well educated, strong minded with ideas of her own and a female. As an intellectual, Cleopatra would have been heartbroken: when during fighting between Egyptians and Caesar ' s Roman troops, there occurred one of the greatest tragedies of the ancient world Ñ. the burning of the library of Alexandria. It ' s sad to think about what was lost in the fire at Alexandria. There are the missing 30)manuscripts of Aristotle and Plato. They were probably there. There was an entire room with editions of Homer. Maybe even there were early manuscripts of the Old Testament,

which could probably help settle 31)Biblical questions today.Cleopatra was eventually able to replace 200,000 of the manuscripts. Books were very important to her. It ' s ironic that today everybody knows her for her beauty, but it was her intelligence that was the most important 32)asset she had. 100Test 下载频道开通，各类考试题目直接下载。详细请访问 www.100test.com