

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

The Destruction of Pompeii History Happened Here Series

Vocabulary:

Define the following key terms:

Pompeii, Naples, tranquility, ominous, crater, Mount Vesuvius, pillars, Roman forum, lavish, spectacles, mushroom cloud, idyllic, pumice, debris, archaeology, pathos, excavations, dormant

Pre-Viewing Questions:

- 1) Locate Mount Vesuvius and Pompeii on a map.
- 2) Discuss volcanic eruptions. What causes volcanic eruptions? What occurs in an eruption? Describe the different types of materials ejected by different types of volcanoes. Which type might make archaeological excavation most possible? Are there warning signs that a volcano may erupt? What are they?

Post-Viewing Questions:

- 1) Describe the city of Pompeii. How large was the city? What kinds of stores were in the marketplace? What types of public buildings were in the city? What kinds of people lived in Pompeii? What recreational activities did the citizens of Pompeii enjoy?
- 2) What signs warned of the eruption of Mount Vesuvius? Why did the citizens of Pompeii ignore the signs?
- 3) Describe the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. How did the eruption begin? What materials flowed into the city? How did citizens protect themselves? What was the cause of death for most residents of Pompeii?
- 4) When were the ruins of Pompeii discovered? What do these ruins reveal about life in Roman cities? Can we learn more or less about Roman life from these ruins than from the ruins of other Roman cities? Why?

Additional Activities:

- 1) Learn more about the excavation of Pompeii at <http://www.archaeology.org/interactive/pompeii/index.html>. The website includes the history of Pompeii, photographs of the ancient city, field notes from archeologists, maps, and information about preserving the site. Write reports for class presentation and sharing.
- 2) Take a virtual tour of Pompeii at <http://www.touritaly.org/pompeii/pompeii-main.htm>.
- 3) Research the science of volcano prediction. What instruments do scientists use to measure volcanic activity? What are the signs of an active volcano? How accurately can volcanic eruptions be predicted?
- 4) Learn about different types of volcanoes. Which type is Mount Vesuvius?

New Dimension Media

- 5) With your groups, choose a volcano to research. Each group should report on the eruption of their volcano, the nature of the eruption, how the eruption affected human civilization, and how the volcano affects human civilization today. Groups should research volcanoes in your state or region, if possible. The U.S. Geological Survey's website, www.usgs.gov, is an excellent resource for further research.
- 6) Locate active volcanoes and nearby cities on a map. Investigate how the volcanoes affect life in these cities.