

The Lost City of Pompeii

Pompeii was a city during the time of ancient Rome. It is located in Italy, close to the city of Naples. Today, it is one of the most important historical sites in the world and key to helping us understand Roman civilisation.



Life in Pompeii

Pompeii was originally settled by Greeks in the 8th century BC. It became a vacation spot for Romans after it had fallen under the control of the Roman Empire in the 2nd century BC. The town was filled with elegant houses and villas, taverns, bath houses, marketplaces and shops. There was also an arena which could seat around 20,000 people.

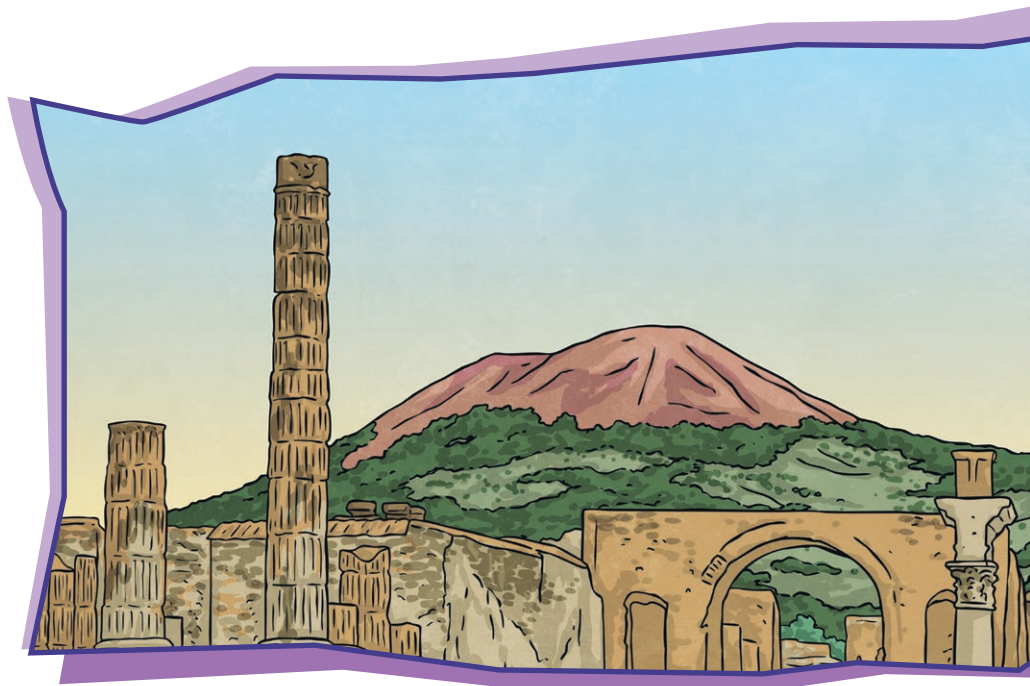


Disaster Strikes

Pompeii sat in the shadow of Mount Vesuvius, an active volcano. The city was used to earthquakes and smaller eruptions happening regularly. A large earthquake in AD 62 caused widespread destruction and was a warning of the future devastation to come.

In AD 79, Vesuvius erupted. The level of destruction was immense, and the city was rapidly covered in clouds of ash and lava. Around 2000 people were killed in Pompeii and it is believed around 16,000 people lost their lives overall, including in the nearby towns of Herculaneum, Oplontis and Stabiae, and some villas in the area. The eruption lasted for two days. Pliny the Younger, who lived close by, wrote about his view of the eruption from the town of Misenum around 20 miles away and how dark the sky was.

“It was daylight now elsewhere in the world, but there the darkness was darker and thicker than any night.”



The Lost City is Found

The ruins of Pompeii laid undiscovered for almost 2000 years. In 1748, a group of explorers looking for artefacts began digging. They discovered that the volcanic ash had **preserved** Pompeii remarkably and was almost exactly as it had been on the day of its destruction. Buildings, objects and household goods (including loaves of bread!) were preserved. The people caught in the eruption were also preserved, allowing archaeologists a rare insight into what life had been like in the town.

The **excavation** is still ongoing today, and is a major tourist attraction for those who wish to see through a fascinating, yet tragic, window into the past.

Glossary

Preserved: Where something has been kept as it was, not destroyed.

Excavation: The act of digging out the earth to uncover historical ruins and objects.

Questions

1. Which country is Pompeii located in? **Tick one.**

- UK
- Greece
- Italy
- Rome

2. Which of these was not listed as being in Pompeii? **Tick one.**

- taverns
- museums
- bath houses
- marketplaces

3. What does the word 'immense' mean? **Tick one.**

- exploded
- small
- large
- noisy

4. Draw three lines and match each year to the correct event.

AD 62

AD 79

AD 1748

Mount Vesuvius erupts and destroys Pompeii.

The ruins of Pompeii begin to be uncovered.

An earthquake causes enormous damage to Pompeii.

5. Look at the section titled **The Lost City is Found.**

Find and copy one word which means 'sad'.

6. Name **two** things that were preserved in the ruins of Pompeii.

7. Why do you think the author used the word 'remarkably' when describing how things have been preserved in Pompeii? Explain your answer.

Answers

1. Which country is Pompeii located in? **Tick one.**

- UK
- Greece
- Italy**
- Rome

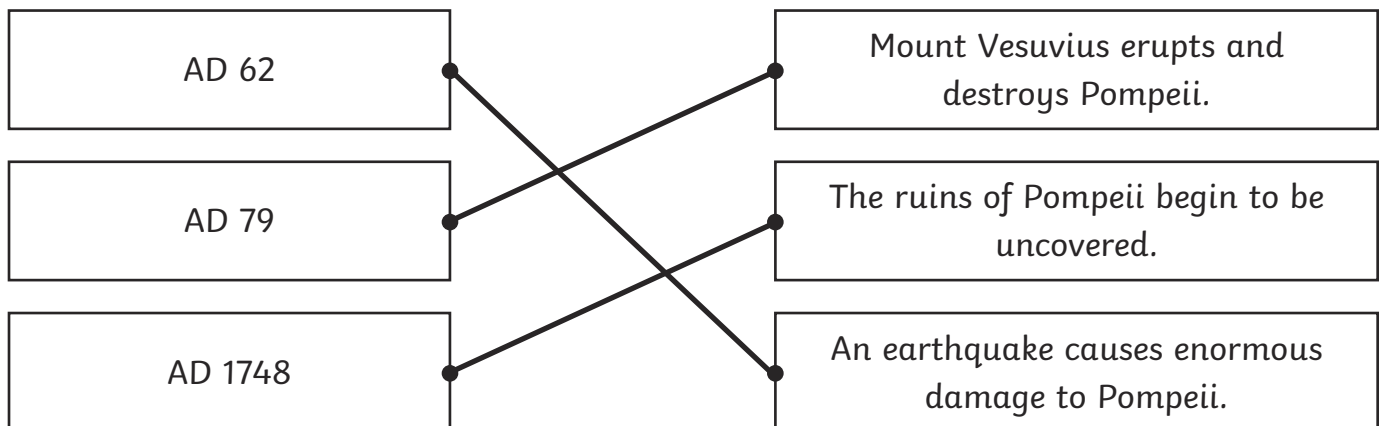
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- exploded
- small
- large**
- noisy

4. Draw three lines and match each year to the correct event.



5. Look at the section titled **The Lost City is Found.**

Find and copy one word which means 'sad'.

tragic

6. Name **two** things that were preserved in the ruins of Pompeii.

Accept any two of: buildings, people, objects, household goods, loaves of bread.

7. Why do you think the author used the word 'remarkably' when describing how things have been preserved in Pompeii? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the author used the word 'remarkably' because the disaster happened almost 2000 years ago and you would think that remains of the city would have decayed or been damaged in that time.

The Lost City of Pompeii

Pompeii was a bustling city during the time of ancient Rome. It is located in Italy, close to the city of Naples. Today, it is one of the most significant historical sites in the world and key to helping archaeologists understand aspects of Roman civilisation.



Life in Pompeii

Originally settled by Greeks in the 8th century BC, Pompeii became an attractive vacation spot for Romans after it had fallen under the control of the Roman Empire in the 2nd century BC. The town was filled with elegant houses and villas, taverns, bath houses, marketplaces and shops. There was also an arena which could seat around 20,000 spectators.

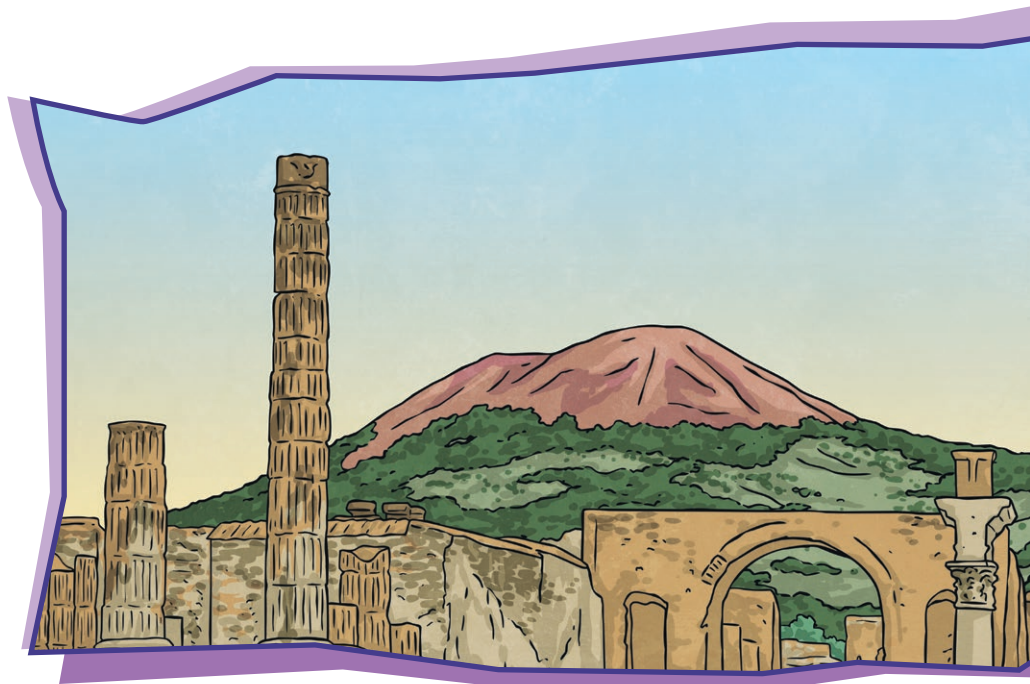


Disaster Strikes

Pompeii sat in the looming shadow of Mount Vesuvius, an active volcano. The city was used to earthquakes and smaller eruptions happening regularly. A large earthquake in AD 62 caused widespread destruction and was a warning of the future devastation to come.

In AD 79, Vesuvius violently erupted. The level of destruction was immense, and the city was rapidly covered in clouds of ash and lava. Around 2000 people were killed in Pompeii and it is believed around 16,000 people lost their lives overall, including in the nearby towns of Herculaneum, Oplontis and Stabiae, and some villas in the nearby area. The eruption lasted for two days altogether, during which the volcano spluttered out stones, ash, lava and volcanic gases. Pliny the Younger, a local lawyer and author, wrote about his view of the eruption from the town of Misenum around 20 miles away and how dark the sky was.

“It was daylight now elsewhere in the world, but there the darkness was darker and thicker than any night.”



The Lost City is Found

The ruins of Pompeii laid undiscovered for almost 2000 years. In 1748, a group of explorers looking for artefacts began excavating in the area. They discovered that the volcanic ash had preserved Pompeii remarkably and was almost exactly as it had been on the day of its destruction. Buildings, objects and household goods, including jars of fruit and loaves of bread, were preserved. The people caught in the eruption were also preserved, allowing archaeologists a rare insight into what life had been like in the town.

The discovery of the ruins led to an increased interest about the classical era from the public, with some art and buildings being created in the Roman style.

The excavation is still ongoing today, with large areas of the site still to be uncovered. Pompeii is also a major tourist attraction for those who wish to see through a fascinating, yet tragic, window into the past.

Questions

1. When was Pompeii originally settled? **Tick one.**

- 8th century BC
- 2nd century BC
- AD 79
- AD 1749

2. What did many Romans come to Pompeii for? **Tick one.**

- to work
- for a holiday
- to explore
- for war

3. Draw three lines and match each year to the correct event.

AD 62

AD 79

AD 1748

Mount Vesuvius erupts and destroys Pompeii.

The ruins of Pompeii begin to be uncovered.

An earthquake causes enormous damage to Pompeii.

4. Look at the opening paragraph.

Find and copy one word which means 'busy'.

5. Which **two** of these items were found preserved at Pompeii? Tick **two**.

- fruit
- meat
- bread
- vegetables

6. What occupations did Pliny the Younger have?

7. Why do you think the author used the word 'looming' to describe Mount Vesuvius?

8. Why do you think it is remarkable how things have been preserved in Pompeii? Explain your answer.

Answers

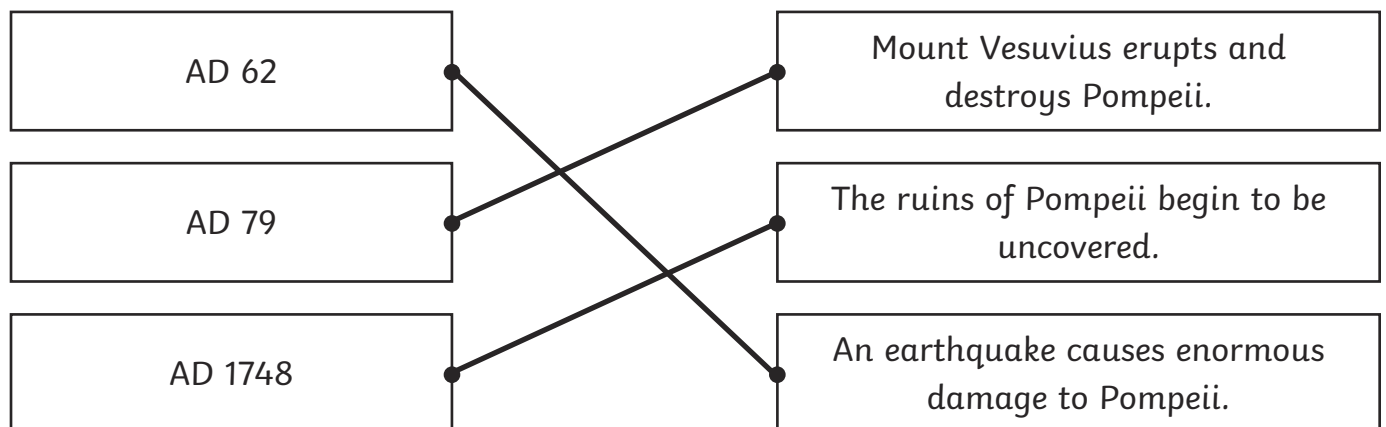
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4. Look at the opening paragraph.

Find and copy one word which means 'busy'.

bustling

5. Which **two** of these items were found preserved at Pompeii? Tick **two**.

- fruit**
- meat
- bread**
- vegetables

6. What occupations did Pliny the Younger have?

author and lawyer

7. Why do you think the author used the word 'looming' to describe Mount Vesuvius?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the author used the word 'looming' to make Mount Vesuvius seem threatening, like a dark shadow leaning over the city.

8. Why do you think it is remarkable how things have been preserved in Pompeii? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that it is remarkable how well things have been preserved at Pompeii because the disaster happened almost 2000 years ago and you would think that remains of the city would have decayed or been damaged in that time.

The Lost City of Pompeii

Pompeii was a thriving, bustling city during the time of the ancient Roman Empire. It is located towards the south of Italy, in the region of Campania, near Naples. Today, it is one of the most significant historical sites in the world and key to helping archaeologists understand aspects of Roman civilisation.



Life in Pompeii

Originally founded by Greek settlers in the 8th century BC, Pompeii became an attractive vacation spot for Romans after it had fallen under the control of the Roman Empire in the 2nd century BC. It was also popular with farmers as the volcanic soil was extremely fertile for growing crops. The town was filled with elegant houses and villas, taverns, bath houses, marketplaces and shops. There was also an aqueduct to provide water and an amphitheatre which could seat around 20,000 spectators.



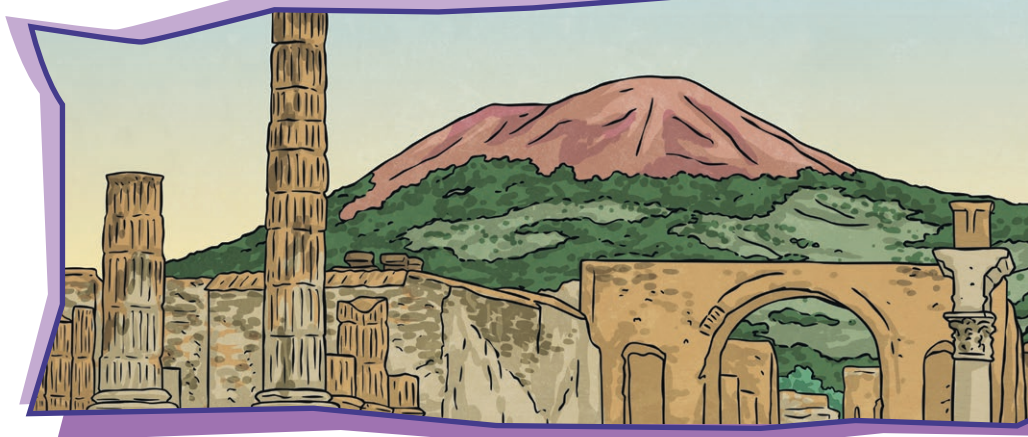
Disaster Strikes

Pompeii sat in the looming shadow of Mount Vesuvius, an active volcano. The city was used to earthquakes and smaller eruptions happening regularly. A large earthquake in AD 62 caused widespread destruction and was a warning of the future devastation to come.

In AD 79, Vesuvius catastrophically erupted. The level of destruction was immense, and the city was rapidly covered in clouds of ash and lava. Around 2000 people were killed in Pompeii and it is believed around 16,000 people lost their lives overall, including in

the nearby towns of Herculaneum, Oplontis and Stabiae, and some villas and farms in the nearby area. The eruption lasted for two days altogether, during which the volcano spluttered out numerous stones and large amounts of ash, lava and volcanic gases. In some areas, the ash piled up to 6 metres deep. Pliny the Younger, a local lawyer and author, wrote about his view of the eruption from the town of Misenum around 20 miles away and how dark the sky was.

“It was daylight now elsewhere in the world, but there the darkness was darker and thicker than any night.”



The Lost City is Found

The ruins of Pompeii laid undiscovered for almost 2000 years. In 1738, a group of workmen digging foundations for a palace made amazing finds. Because of this, a Spanish engineer began excavations in 1748 and Pompeii was uncovered for the first time since the disaster, although the city was not identified until 1763, when an inscription was uncovered with the city's name. They discovered that the volcanic ash had preserved the city remarkably and was almost exactly as it had been on the day of its destruction. Buildings, objects and household goods, including jars of fruit and loaves of bread, were preserved. The people caught in the eruption were also preserved, allowing archaeologists a rare insight into what life had been like in the town.

The discovery of the ruins led to an increased interest about the classical era from the public, with some art and buildings being created in the Roman style.



The excavation is still ongoing today, with large areas of the site still to be uncovered. Pompeii is also a major tourist attraction for those who wish to see through a fascinating, yet tragic, window into the past, with around 2.5 million visiting each year. A modern town, Pompei, was founded in 1891 near to the ruins.

Questions

1. Which Italian city is Pompeii close to? **Tick one.**

- Rome
- Naples
- Florence
- Milan

2. What is the name of the volcano that destroyed Pompeii? **Tick one.**

- Mount Pompeii
- Mount Rome
- Mount Venus
- Mount Vesuvius

3. Fill in the missing words.

A large _____ in AD 62 caused widespread destruction and was a warning of the future _____ to come.

4. Who gave an account of how the sky looked from the town of Misenum during the eruption?

5. Name **two** preserved things that were uncovered during the excavations.

6. Why do you think the author used the word 'looming' to describe Mount Vesuvius? Explain your answer.

7. Why do you think it wasn't until 1763 that the ruins were identified as being Pompeii? Explain your answer.

8. Why do you think it is remarkable how things have been preserved in Pompeii? Explain your answer.

Answers

1. Which Italian city is Pompeii close to? **Tick one.**

- Rome
- Naples**
- Florence
- Milan

2. What is the name of the volcano that destroyed Pompeii? **Tick one.**

- Mount Pompeii
- Mount Rome
- Mount Venus
- Mount Vesuvius**

3. Fill in the missing words.

A large **earthquake** in AD 62 caused widespread destruction and was a warning of the future **devastation** to come.

4. Who gave an account of how the sky looked from the town of Misenum during the eruption?

Pliny the Younger

5. Name **two** preserved things that were uncovered during the excavations.

Accept any two of: buildings, people, objects, household goods, loaves of bread.

6. Why do you think the author used the word 'looming' to describe Mount Vesuvius? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the author used the word 'looming' to make Mount Vesuvius seem threatening, like a dark shadow leaning over the city.

7. Why do you think it wasn't until 1763 that the ruins were identified as being Pompeii? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that it wasn't until 1763 that the ruins were identified as being Pompeii as it wasn't until they had uncovered the inscription that

they knew for certain. The city had been completely destroyed so there were no known parts elsewhere to link to it. There are ruins all over where the Roman Empire spread and so the ruins could have been a number of places.

8. Why do you think it is remarkable how things have been preserved in Pompeii? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that it is remarkable how well things have been preserved at Pompeii because the disaster happened almost 2000 years ago and you would think that remains of the city would have decayed or been damaged in that time.