

Instructor notes

Greetings and thank you for choosing to teach this!

The best age range to teach this is 10 and up. This topic does talk about death, please be sure the audience is prepared. Encourage parents or escorts to participate!

Included:

- A reading (1 page)
- Word soup (How many words can you make from this phrase?)
- A word search

Some problem words may be the following:

Archaeologists: those who study people in the past

Excavate: carefully dig up

Plagued: in this case means bothered again and again

Pumice: a type of stone that has a lot of holes in it and comes from volcanoes.

Suffocation: dying because you can't breathe

ABOVE ALL: HAVE FUN!!!

If you have any questions, please contact me via Facebook (Jael ben Ari) or email jaelbenari@yahoo.

Pompeii: City of the DEAD

On August 24, 79 A.D. in Pompeii a bustling, thriving city, became a town inhabited by none but the ghosts of those who did not flee the doomed city in time. Life in Pompeii was that of a city flourishing under the successes of the Roman Empire. Thousands lived in the small city on what we call the Bay of Naples, Italy today. Five miles in the distance the beautiful Mount Vesuvius rose, dominating the horizon.

In the year 78 A.D. Pompeii had been plagued with small earthquakes that damaged structures but people patched up the cracks and kept on with normal life. For several days before the 24th of August, Pompeii there were several small and larger earthquakes. The people assumed that the earthquakes were just like the ones from the previous year and continued on. Around one in the afternoon things changed.

Mount Vesuvius erupted spewing pumice and ash into the sky scattering both for miles around. In Pompeii small volcanic rocks and ash began to rain down upon the city. Most of the citizens chose to flee by either land or sea. Some people chose to stay in the city and wait out the storm. The written records told of the chaos that engulfed the city as the masses tried to flee the doomed city. One man actually returned to the city to make observations as the rocks and ash rained down. To protect himself from the falling rocks he tied a pillow to his head, he never returned from the city. His nephew shared his writings.

Most of those who fled Pompeii had a decent chance of survival. Vesuvius at this time was sending large pumice stones flying into sky reaching as far as the Bay of Naples, striking ships and sinking some. Those who chose to wait too long or tried to wait out the falling stone and ash died, Ash and pumice fell at the steady rate of six inches per hour until midnight. The ash and pumice stopped for a few hours. Then Vesuvius spewed out super-hot rocks and gas. Lava began flowing down the mountain side towards the city. It wasn't until 5:30 the following morning that the lava and stones reached Pompeii. Within minutes all who remained perished from extreme heat or suffocation from the ash. By 8:30 the city had been completely buried.

Some returned to Pompeii in an attempt to recover lost loved ones, personal possessions, or to loot the city. Most people just left the city and its doomed citizens in peace. Pompeii passed into legend, the buried city and its lost wealth. In 1748 AD Pompeii was rediscovered. The first people to excavate were no better than grave robbers, looting the city's riches, pulling out statues and artifacts for private collections or to sell. Over time the preservation of the city became the goal and continues to be the goal today.

Even now they are uncovering new sections of the city, slowly restoring what they can, so that we can learn more about Rome. In areas of hardened ash and pumice there are empty spaces where people or animals were caught. Archaeologists, have a method of filling those empty spaces with a plaster mixture, allowing it to harden and preserving the last moments of that person or animal. After nearly 2,000 years the city is still telling us it's story.

How many words can you make out of these following phrases?

Vesuvius destroyed Pompeii

For the Glory of the Roman Empire

The Society for Creative Anachronism

Find the words listed below and circle them in the puzzle

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

Archaeologist

Ash

Excavation

Flee

Heat

Homes

Lava

Looting

Pompeii

Pumice

Roman

Vesuvius

Volcano