

e-lesson

Week starting: 23rd August 2004

1. Pompeii

On August 24th, 79 A.D., Vesuvius blew its top, literally. Although most of the citizens of Pompeii had already left town, the volcano still claimed 2,000 lives and a further 1,500 from other towns. Since 1748, when excavations at Pompeii started, we have learnt a great deal about life in Roman times. We have also learnt that we are not as different as we might think from the people who lived in those times. Because the ash covered the city so quickly, it's as if someone took a photo showing us the day-to-day routines of the time that are still so much a part of our lives today.

Level

Good Intermediate upwards

How to use the lesson

1. Brainstorm what your students know about the city of Pompeii (where it is, what happened there, when it happened, how many people died etc.)
2. Give each student a copy of Worksheet A and five minutes in which to read it. Students shouldn't write anything down at this stage.
3. Stop your students after five minutes. Ask them to turn their pieces of paper over.
4. Give each student a copy of Worksheet B. Tell them that by answering the questions they can find the name of two more cities that were devastated by the eruption. Divide the class into pairs and ask students to work together to answer the questions and write the answers in the grid.
5. Check answers in open class. If the questions have all been answered as below, the names of the cities should read *Stabiae* and *Herculaneum* from top to bottom.

Answers

- | | |
|-------------|----------------------|
| 1. Vesuvius | 8. Sarno |
| 2. tsunami | 9. Welcome money |
| 3. Naples | 10. Wincklemann |
| 4. pine | 11. Fontana |
| 5. graffiti | 12. carbon dioxide |
| 6. smoke | 13. cave canem |
| 7. ash | 14. Lachryma Christi |

2. Related Websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

http://volcano.und.nodak.edu/vwdocs/volc_images/img_vesuvius.html

Pompeii, Herculaneum and Vesuvius

<http://www.bsr.ac.uk/>

Check out the BSR's Archaeology web pages and then click on the Pompeii Project

http://wings.buffalo.edu/AandL/Maecenas/italy_except_rome_and_sicily/pompeii/thumbnails_contents.html

thumbnail images of Pompeii

<http://www2.pompeiiisites.org/database/pompei/pompei2.nsf/555FFD09471662B6C1256D400052DB80/7E88A1246B5D2E9FC1256D4000537041?OpenDocument>

If you do nothing else here, at least scroll down to the virtual tour of Pompeii excavations