



Pompei





What is Pompei?

Pompei is part of a large **Archaeological Park**.

An archaeological park is a place where you can find object, parts of houses and buildings that are still there after a long and a very long time.

This park is called **Archaeological Park of Pompei** because Pompei is the most important ancient city inside the Archaeological Park.

Other ancient cities, buildings and **museums** make part of this Archaeological Park.

You can see them in the images below.

A museum is a place where artworks or important and beautiful objects are kept, so that everybody can watch and study them.



Boscoreale



Oplontis



Reggia of Quisisana



Stabiae



Polverificio Borbonico of Scafati

The history of Pompei



Where the Archaeological Park of Pompei is located today, a very long time ago there was the **ancient** city of Pompei.

Ancient means of a very long time ago.

Those who lived in Pompei were called **Pompeians**.

Pompeians were a **people**.

They call people a group of persons who live together in a country.

Every people have their own ways of speaking, staying together, cooking and celebrating.

Pompeians built the city near Sarno river and the Vesuvius **volcano**.

A volcano is a **crack** in the ground.

A crack is a very large and deep hole.



The city of Pompei was very rich because:

- There was a **port** on Sarno river nearby.

A port is the place where you put your boat when you're not using it.

- The ground near the Vesuvius was very good and made plants grow very well, so there was a lot of food to eat and sell.

After some time, **Romans** became heads of Pompei.

Romans were the people from Rome,

the strongest city in central Italy.

Romans made Pompei even more beautiful and important than before.



After some time, in year **62**,

there was a very strong earthquake in Pompei.

During the earthquake many houses collapsed and other houses were damaged.

After that very strong earthquake,

Pompeians started fixing the collapsed houses and building some new ones.

In year **79**, the Vesuvius erupted

and the city of Pompei was destroyed.



Find out how the Vesuvius erupted on page 31



The eruption of Vesuvius covered and hid the city with **lapilli** and a lot of **ash** that went out and fell from the volcano.

Lapilli are very light stones.

Ash is the grey powder left after something has burnt.

For a very long time people didn't know where the ancient city of Pompei was.

After a very very long time:

- **A group of persons built the new city of Pompei.**

People still live in the new city of Pompei,
that is near the Archaeological Park of Pompei.



- **Some archaeologists started looking for the ancient city of Pompei and started digging.**

The archaeologists found the remains
of the ancient city underground.

For example, the archaeologists found streets, houses and shops.



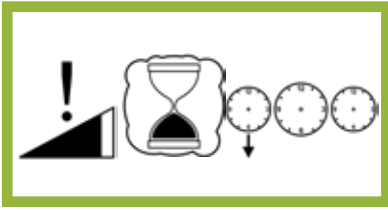
Find out who are the archaeologists on page 33

The archaeologists started fixing and adjusting all the things they were finding.

Thanks to those archaeologists, today many people can come and see how the ancient city of Pompei was.



A very very long time ago



The city of Pompei is built near the Sarno river.



Romans became heads of Pompei.



Year 62

An earthquake destroys many houses in Pompei.

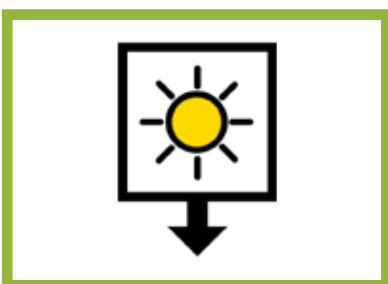


Year 79

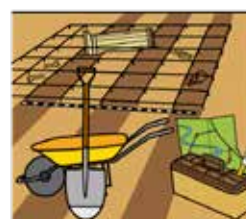
The Vesuvius erupts and destroys the whole city of Pompei.



A group of persons builds the new city of Pompei. This city is still there.



Today



The archaeologists start looking for the ancient city of Pompei. Pompei becomes an archaeological park.



How did the Vesuvius erupt?



Near Pompei there is a big **volcano** called Vesuvius.

A volcano is a big **crack** in the ground.

A crack is a very large and deep hole.

Inside a volcano there is the **magma**,
a **melted** and very very hot stone.

Melted means liquid.

In year 79 the Vesuvius erupted and destroyed the city of Pompei.

A volcano erupts when the magma becomes very very hot
and goes out of the volcano **crater**.

A crater is a big hole on the top of the volcano.

**When the magma goes out of the volcano
is called lava.**

When the volcano is erupting you can see:



A lot of smoke.

The lava pouring down the volcano.

Ash

Ash is the powder left
after something has burnt.





During the eruption some very hot stone pieces can fly out of the volcano.

Those stone pieces can be small and light or big and heavy. The light stones are called **lapilli**.

A volcano eruption can be very dangerous because:

- the smoke that comes out of the volcano makes people breathe badly
- the lava and the stone pieces that come out of the volcano can destroy and burn trees, plants and nearby cities.

In fact, when the lava goes out of the volcano burns all the things it touches.

Sometimes, the stone pieces are really many and completely cover the cities they fall on.

Sometime after the eruption, the lava gets cold and becomes as hard as a stone.

During the eruption of Vesuvius of year 79, the lava that came out of the volcano didn't arrive up to Pompei. The city was covered and destroyed by the ash and the lapilli fell from the volcano.

After year 79, the Vesuvius erupted many more times but never in such a hard way.

Today 80 years have passed from the last eruption of Vesuvius.





Who are the archaeologists?



The archaeologists study how people lived a very very long time ago.

For example, archaeologists study how Pompeians lived.

To understand it, archaeologists look for and study all the things of Pompeians:

- the objects
- the houses and the monuments
- the city and the streets
- the tombs.



Very often archaeologists need to dig the ground to find all those things because they have been covered by earth over the years.

The objects the archaeologists find during their diggings are called **findings**.

After finding them, the archaeologists bring the findings to museums.





The findings are **restored**.

To restore means to clean and fix an object of a long time ago that was damaged.

Once the findings are fixed, they put them in the museum showcases so that everybody can see them.



The archaeologists try to understand what the use of the findings was, but also:

- who had made them
- who used them
- when they were used.

In this way archaeologists can tell you about the lives of people who lived a very very long time ago.

