

Thursday 4th June 2020

LO: To use retrieval skills to present facts in an advert.



Your Task: Today you will create a poster advertising for people to visit the archaeological site of Pompeii in Italy, based on your reading this week and the information below

Success Criteria:

Include the following:

- Title
- At least 5 facts about Pompeii
- A short description of what visitors could experience on their trip
- Quotes of what people who have visited may have said
- Images of Pompeii

Pompeii remained undiscovered for 1,500 years after the tragic volcano eruption.



The eruption started on the morning of August 24, 79 A.D., just one day after the festival of the Roman god of fire, Vulcan.



2.6 – 3 million people visit Mount Vesuvius and the remains of Pompeii



Pompeii was buried under 4-6 m of thick volcanic ash which perfectly preserved ancient objects for centuries.

A Weekend in Pompeii

(Friday 22nd May)

Dear Diary,

Yes! Half term has arrived at last, and I can finally relax and have some fun for a change! The last few weeks at school have been **horrendous!** Tests, tests and more tests! Oh, and did I say we had tests to do? One whole week to kick back and chill! Bliss!

Even better news is that we touched down in Naples (Italy) just a few hours ago. Mom and Pops have whisked us off for the weekend to visit Pompeii and Mount Vesuvius. A-maz-ing! We have recently been learning about volcanoes in geography, so it will be awesome to see a real live one, and I do mean 'live'! According to my teacher, Mr Strict (yes, that is his real name), Mount Vesuvius is an active volcano, which last erupted in 1944. He said that, in the past, it had followed a twenty year **eruption** pattern. Even my poor maths skills can calculate that it is long overdue an eruption! I'm beginning to think I should be a little bit concerned about that!

So, the plan for tomorrow is to visit the remains of Pompeii; not sure what to expect really, but I will update you tomorrow night when I get back to the hotel. Finally! Room service has arrived and my stomach is telling me that it's time to eat. A delicious pepperoni pizza and a **humungous** bowl of ice cream is calling me – well I am in Italy, it would be rude not to indulge, just a little bit!

(Saturday 23rd May)

Dear Diary,

Wow it was hot today! We took a half hour train ride from Naples to Pompeii. The train stopped just outside the rather grand gates to the town, which was handy. Mom slapped lots of sun cream on me, shoved a hat on my head, forced a bottled of water into my hand and gave me instructions on what to do if we became separated. I'm sure she still thinks I am five! Armed with a map of the town, we walked excitedly through the gates.

My word, we needed that map! The town was a maze of streets, lined with houses, shops, taverns, restaurants, temples and **amphitheatres**. Pompeii must have been a **bustling** town, full of noise and activity. Pops was hilarious (if not a little bit embarrassing), he kept tripping over the stone blocks that helped us cross from one high pavement to the other. Mom said that, as well as helping the townspeople avoid the waste water running down the street, they were also used to slow the carriages down, who would have thought the Romans needed traffic calming measures?

Pompeii is so well **preserved**. Mr Strict told us that this was because the town had been buried in metres of ash and **pumice**, instead of being blasted away by the eruption, it had helped to preserve the site. I hadn't realised that **archaeologists** were still **excavating** the site; 20 **hectares** are yet to be explored! Maybe I should pop back in a few years time to see how they are getting on?

As for Mount Vesuvius, it was impossible to miss! It **dominates** the skyline. The people of Pompeii would have lived happily in its shadow for years, believing it to be **dormant**. As I stared up at the **awe-inspiring** sight I shuddered at the thought of how unprepared the people of Pompeii were on that fateful day in AD 79. A deafening boom had signalled the start of the eruption. Magma

blasted out of the top, and the ground had shook the people Pompeii off their feet. Rocks the size of tennis balls had rained down, and the sun had been blocked out by the deadly ash cloud and smoke. At least 2000 people died that day. I don't really mind that Mom and Pops fuss over me. I know how incredibly lucky I am, because we are happy, healthy, and together.

We rounded the trip off with a rather scrummy bowl of pasta at a restaurant just outside the gates of Pompeii, before catching our train back to the hotel. My trousers are beginning to feel tight, I think Mom may have shrunk them in the wash!

(Sunday 24th May)

Dear Diary,

I have to confess that I had felt a little nervous about today's trip to Mount Vesuvius, especially after seeing, first hand, the **devastation** it had caused yesterday.

We caught a colourful looking 4x4 bus, which took us most of the way to the top. At times I thought we had mistakenly **boarded** a theme park ride, as it twisted and turned its way up the side of the volcano! However, I was more than a little **disconcerted** when the driver stopped at a car park, just short of the **summit**, and told us that we had to walk the rest of the way ourselves! He obviously didn't **appreciate** that, as an eleven year old child, I never, ever do any unnecessary walking!

Once again I was **unceremoniously** grabbed by Mom and forced to **endure** the sun cream, sun hat, bottled water routine, with the addition this time of a jumper! Only a mother would hand you a jumper in 32 degree heat!

We set off together for the short, but steep, walk to the summit. There was lots of loose gravel and rocks underfoot and I was glad I had decided to wear my trainers instead of sandals. The view was breathtaking. We could see the Bay of Naples, snaking round the coastline, and the sun seemed to dance and twinkle off the calm, blue water which stretched for as far as the eye could see.

Once we had got our breath back, we made a last push for the top. A wooden post and rail fence stopped sightseers from **venturing** too close to the edge, however it was possible to appreciate the size of the crater. I do admit to feeling a little bit disappointed though when I peered into the crater; smoke, fire and magma had now been replaced by rocks, soil and plants! It was also remarkably cold at the summit – that jumper, which I had **begrudgingly** tied around my waist, was suddenly very useful at this high altitude. Moms can be very clever sometimes!

Well, that's it diary! We fly back to London tomorrow, but I will take some wonderful memories back with me. The hotel has been great, the sights have been **inspirational** and the food, well, the food has been to die for! Talking of which – room service has arrived! I will catch up with you tomorrow!

Investigating Pompeii and Vesuvius

In the year AD 79, Mount Vesuvius famously erupted, causing devastation to the nearby Roman cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum. Buildings were destroyed and many lives were lost. The entire area was covered in layers of ash and other volcanic debris. Many years later, the remains of the buildings were uncovered. Among them, some fascinating discoveries have emerged from that fateful day.

The bodies of the buried victims have decomposed over time, leaving just skeletons behind. However, they also left hollow cavities in the space that they occupied, with compacted earth and volcanic ash all around. Archaeologists filled the spaces with plaster, using them like moulds, and allowed the plaster to harden. By doing so, they have been able to create three-dimensional replicas of those who perished. Experts are now able to examine the final poses of the people of Pompeii and the resulting plaster casts have helped experts to piece together clues about life in the ancient cities.

As well as the people who succumbed to the disaster that day, similar evidence has been found of animals. One particular dog appeared to have been wearing a collar and was chained up to a post – this suggests that it was probably kept as a pet or guard dog. A famous plaster cast shows the dog in the position in which it perished: lying on its back with its legs in the air.

Furthermore, plaster casts of the spaces occupied by plant and tree roots in the soil have been formed. By analysing the size and shape of the moulded root casts, scientists have been able to identify what types of plant Romans were growing in the soil at the time.

The remains at Pompeii, now a huge modern tourist destination, receive over 3 million visitors a year and attract bigger crowds every year. The well-preserved ancient buildings make this one of the most visited archaeological sites in the world.

Delta – Truth or Myth?

Some sources mention evidence of another dog being discovered, lying above the body of a child. Speculation has evolved that suggests that the faithful dog died while trying to shield the young boy from the volcanic ash and pumice. A collar is also said to have been found with the name 'Delta' engraved upon it.

Delta, informally dubbed 'the hero dog of Pompeii', has been linked with an owner named Severinus, with stories suggesting that the dog had already saved the life of its owner on several previous occasions. The tales of Delta have inspired modern fiction such as the story of 'The Pack of Pompeii', in which a dog of the same name features.



Investigating Pompeii and Vesuvius

An Eye-Witness Account

Pliny the Younger was a Roman author whose letters have given experts valuable insights into various aspects of Roman life. One of these is the eruption of Mount Vesuvius and the events that followed. Pliny and his family witnessed the events of almost two thousand years ago. He later wrote them down in a letter to a historian, called Tacitus. The accounts include his uncle's fateful efforts to save people on the day of the eruption.

The writing has been translated into English, so different versions have slightly different wording. Pliny described a trembling of the earth and tottering buildings, which led to his family attempting to escape from the area to avoid imminent danger. Women and children were heard screaming and shrieking as showers of ash rained down on them. Meanwhile, Pliny's uncle (Pliny the Elder) took a boat to study the erupting volcano more closely. Upon receiving a message from a stranded local woman named Rectina, he changed his course in a valiant effort to save her. Sadly, he died in his attempt.

Mount Vesuvius Facts and Figures

Also known as **Vesuvius** or the Italian **Vesuvio**.

Last recorded height: 1281m (since 1944)

Eruption history: The volcano had not erupted for centuries before the AD 79 disaster. However, many recorded eruptions have occurred in the centuries between the years 1600 and 2000. The last of these was in 1944. One of the biggest was in 1631 when around 3,000 people were killed.

Local population: More than 2 million people are said to live in the vicinity of Mount Vesuvius, either on its lower slopes or in the surrounding area.



Mount Vesuvius is located in the Campania region of Italy, near the Bay of Naples.