

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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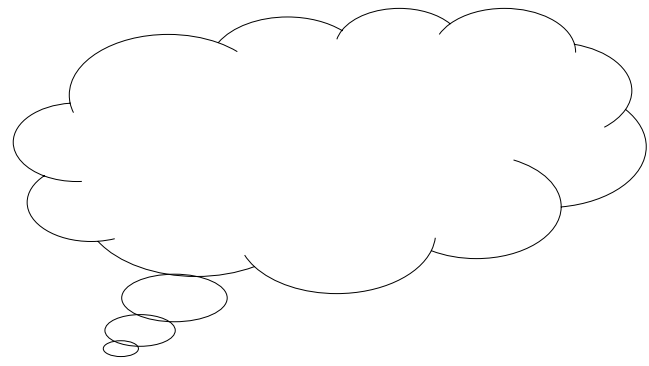
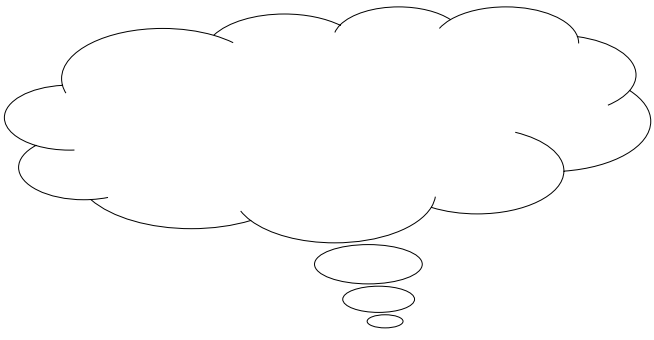
# ON DANGEROUS GROUND

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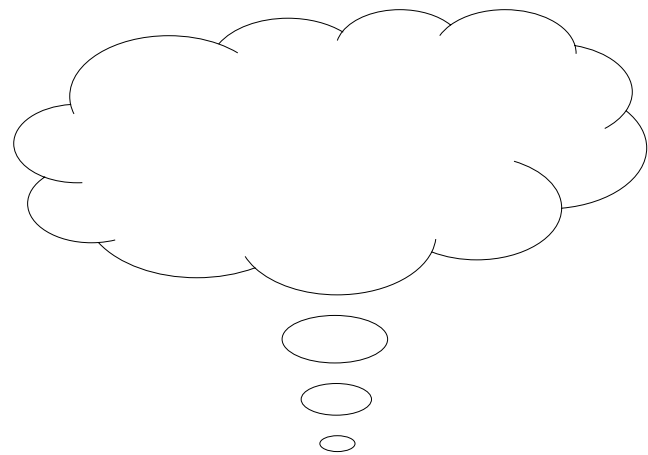
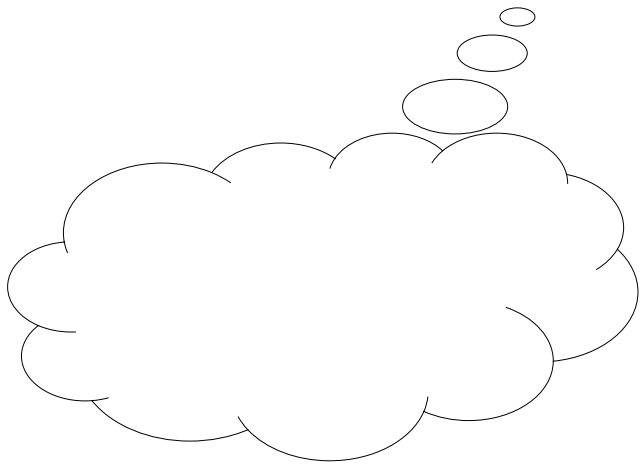




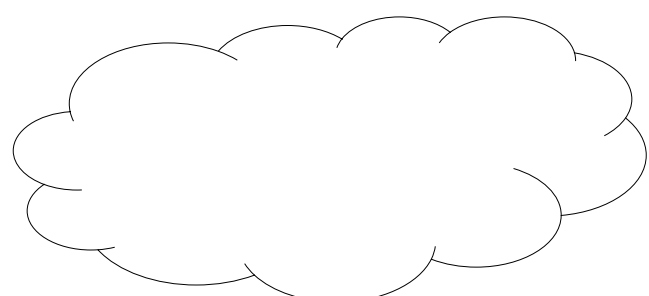
*I wonder...*



*Not far under the surface of the Earth, it is hot. The further down you go inside the Earth, the hotter it becomes. Deep, deep down below our feet, it is so hot that even the rock melts and is nine times hotter than boiling water.*



*In places where the Earth's surface is weak, the liquid rock can bubble up and burst through. These weak spots are the world's volcanoes.*



# VOLCANOES

Eruption of  
Vesuvius



**N**ot far under the surface of the Earth, it is hot. The further down you go inside the Earth, the hotter it becomes. Deep, deep down below our feet, it is so hot that even the rock melts and is nine times hotter than boiling water. In places where the Earth's surface is weak, this liquid rock can bubble up and burst through. These weak spots are the world's volcanoes.

Volcanoes fall into three groups, depending on how active they are. Volcanoes which are erupting are called **active**. Volcanoes which show no signs of eruption are known as **dormant** or sleeping and, if they remain dormant for tens of thousands of years, they may be described as **extinct**.



When we hear of a volcano erupting, we think of a tall cone-shaped mountain sending out clouds of ash and liquid rock called **lava**. In fact, volcanoes can be of different types: some are broad and flat, many are under the sea, some pour out streams of red-hot lava, some create an explosion that can be heard thousands of miles away, while others are quieter and 'gentler'.

There are some volcanoes that can cause massive destruction although they produce little or no lava at all. The most well-known of this type is Mount Vesuvius in Italy. This is what happened in the famous eruption of Vesuvius, which destroyed the town of Pompeii over 1900 years ago.



## The Gist

What happened in the story?

Circle the correct answer

1. Under the earth's surface, it gets

Hot

Wet

Cold

Dark

2. Most people think that volcanoes are

Anywhere in the

Tall and cone

Broad and flat

Under the sea

3. An active volcano is one that is

Erupting

Gentle

No longer

Pouring out lava

4. A sleeping volcano is called

Sleeper

Dormant

Old

Dead

5. Volcanoes can be different types. One type of volcano that you can get is

Spikey

Under the sea

Grassy

6. Mount Vesuvius is most well known for

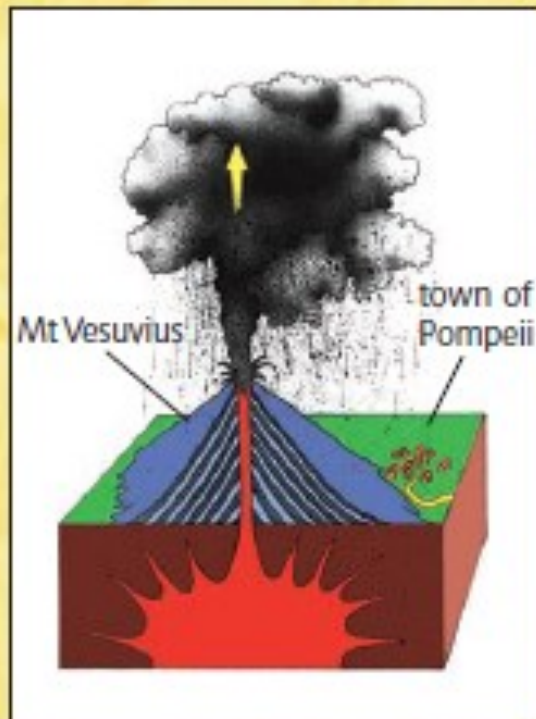
Its height

Its weight

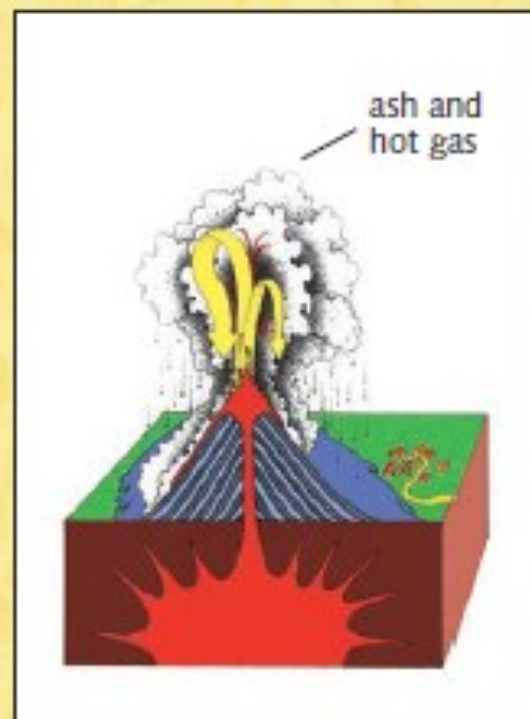
The destruction  
it caused



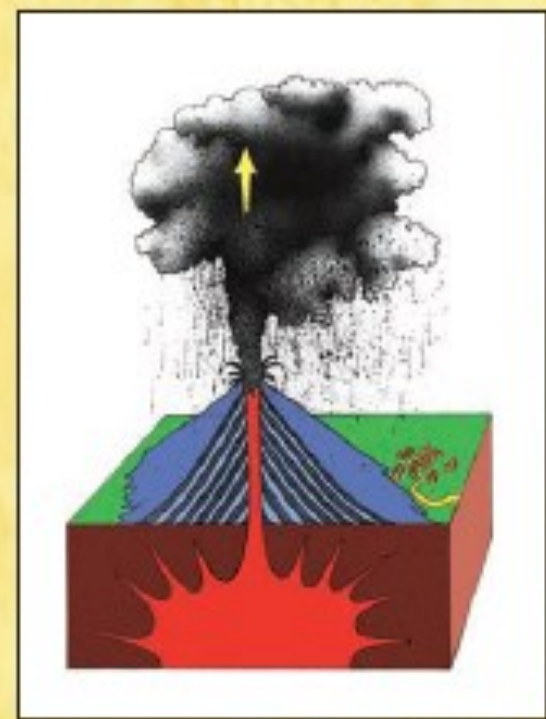
## THE ERUPTION OF VESUVIUS, AD 79



At midday on 24th August, Vesuvius erupted, sending a cloud of ash, pumice and other rock 20 kilometres into the air. This covered Pompeii in 2 metres of rubble but it did not kill anyone.



After midnight, the cloud collapsed. It sent a surge of ash and hot gas mainly down the western slope of the mountain, at a speed of 160 kilometres per hour.



Early the next morning another surge of blistering ash and rock swept down the slopes. This time it covered the town of Pompeii and burnt and suffocated everyone there.

Vocabulary

| Word or Phrase | Use the text to find out what it means—it says, I say and so | Dictionary definition | What other word could the author use instead? |
|----------------|--|-----------------------|---|
| Weak           |  |                       |   |
| Erupting       |  |                       |   |
| Extinct        |  |                       |   |
| Destruction    |  |                       |   |
| Rubble         |  |                       |   |

Vocabulary Questions

... *this liquid rock can ... burst through*

What does the word **burst** tell us about the movement of the lava?

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6

☐

2 marks

Look at the section called *The Eruption of Vesuvius* on page 5.

**Find** and **copy** a word which tells you that the ash was dangerously hot.

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7

☐

1 mark

Why on page 1 has the author repeated the word 'deep'?

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What word could the author use to replace the word 'active' when talking about the volcano being 'active'?

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There are some volcanos that can cause massive destruction.

What does the word destruction mean?

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### Comprehension Questions

Fill in the facts about the eruption of Vesuvius in the table below.

One box has been filled in as an example.

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Date and time eruption started | <i>Midday, 24th August, AD 79</i>                           |
| Height of volcanic cloud       |   |
| Depth of rubble over Pompeii   |   |
| Contents of volcanic cloud     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li><li>•</li></ul> |

4  
☐  
3 marks

Are these sentences **true** or **false**?

Write **T** or **F** by each one.

The first one has been done for you.

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| There are two types of volcano.        | <b>F</b> |
| Lava consists of liquid rock.          |          |
| Some volcanoes are under the sea.      |          |
| All volcanoes produce loud explosions. |          |

5  
☐  
1 mark

Look at the section called *The Eruption of Vesuvius* on page 5.

**Find** and **copy** a word which tells you that the ash was dangerously hot.

\_\_\_\_\_

7  
☐  
1 mark

Comprehension Questions

Some words on pages 4 and 5 stand out because they are in **bold** print.  
Why are they written like this?

Tick **one**.

They are words from another language.

☐

They are subheadings.

☐

They are words that are explained in the text.

☐

They are names in the text.

☐

Why has the author included a diagram showing the eruption of Vesuvius?

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What caused the people of Pompeii to suffocate?

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