

# **Volcano Day - The Ancient City That Was Buried Alive!**

## **Pompeii Lesson Plan**

### **Overview**

This structured Pompeii lesson plan explores the eruption of Mount Vesuvius and the ancient Roman city it buried. Perfect for learners aged 8 to 16, it offers hands-on activities, creative writing, and historical discovery. Your child will explore Roman life, volcanoes, and the science behind what happened in Pompeii.

### **Learning Objectives**

- Locate Pompeii on a map and describe its importance
- Explain the causes and effects of the eruption in 79 CE
- Understand how archaeologists uncover ancient history
- Use critical thinking to explore life in ancient times
- Express their ideas through writing and creative tasks

### **Estimated Time**

You can complete this Pompeii lesson plan in one day or spread it out over the week. It includes 23 hours of flexible activities and discussion.

### **Starter Activity**

Ask: Would you live near a volcano? Show your child Mount Vesuvius on a map. Explore the surrounding area using Google Earth. Are there people living nearby today? Why might they stay?

This opens a discussion on risk, geography, and curiosity.

### **Read and Learn**

Read the article *Volcano Day: The Ancient City That Was Buried Alive!* together on [Lenara.uk](http://Lenara.uk). Pause to explain words like 'archaeology' or 'preserved'. Ask your child to summarise each section in their own words to check understanding.

## **Guided Learning**

Use these discussion questions to help your child think more deeply:

- Why didn't more people escape Pompeii?
- What do the ruins teach us about Roman life?
- How do archaeologists know what happened?

Let them answer out loud or in writing. You can record their responses or turn them into a mini oral report.

## **Activities (with comprehension questions)**

Pick one or more of these hands-on tasks:

- Draw Mount Vesuvius and label the eruption stages
- Create a diary entry from a child living in Pompeii
- Make a timeline showing the events of the eruption

Then ask:

- What clues warned people about the eruption?
- What happened to the city and its people?
- What did archaeologists discover in the ruins?

## **Deeper Thinking**

Challenge your child's reasoning with these questions:

- Should people live near volcanoes today?
- What can we learn from past disasters?

- How would you feel if your own city were buried and studied in 2,000 years?

Encourage thoughtful, open-ended answers and talk through their ideas.

## **Creative Projects**

Let creativity take over!

- Build a model of Pompeii using craft materials or Lego
- Write and illustrate a comic strip about a family's escape
- Design a warning poster in Latin (with translations!)

Display the results or send photos to family to share the learning journey.

## **Review & Reflect**

Wrap up by asking: What surprised you the most? Have your child list 5 new facts they've learned.

You could quiz each other or create a simple Kahoot together.

## **Continuation Of The Topic (Homework)**

Keep the spark alive with optional follow-ups:

- Watch a documentary like BBC's Pompeii: The Last Day
- Read a historical story such as Escape from Pompeii
- Research other volcanoes around the world and compare them to Vesuvius

Keep asking questions curiosity drives great learning!