

Reading and SPAG Challenge 18.3.20 and 19.3.20 - Just do as many as you can.

1. Read the text below.
2. Make a list of **adjectives** that you find. Write these in **blue**.
3. Make a list of **verbs** in **red**.
4. What do these words mean? You can use a dictionary/online search to help you.

eruption:

collapse:

pumice:

excavator:

archaeologist:

victim:

fate:

5. Are there any more words that you do not understand? Use a dictionary (book or online) to find their definitions. Write any of these words below with their definitions:

6. How many similes can you find? (Remember: a simile is when a writer compares something to something else, for example, 'as cold as ice'.)
7. What are your thoughts about the 3rd paragraph? How does it make you feel? Write in sentences.
8. What does the 4th paragraph tell you about modern scientific instruments?


Extra challenge: Pretend you are Guiseppe Fiorelli. Write a diary about your job and your findings. You can write the diary over a few days.

The Story of Pompeii

Before the eruption of Mount Vesuvius, Pompeii was a busy, beautiful Roman city where about 15,000 people lived. In those days Vesuvius appeared green and peaceful, but on 24 August in AD 79, a great mushroom-shaped cloud rose from its top and, to everyone's surprise, the volcano began to erupt. In nearby Pompeii, day became as dark as night. Showers of ash and stones fell and began to cover streets and houses. Within a few hours rooftops started to collapse, and many people fled. The next morning, clouds of poisonous gases and ash poured down from the volcano, suffocating those who had stayed behind.

When the dust had settled, Pompeii and its lovely surroundings had disappeared beneath a blanket of ash, pumice-stone and lava. The city had become like the Sleeping Beauty's castle. Trees and plants grew over it and although, as time passed, people remembered the city of Pompeii, they forgot exactly where it had been. Pompeii slept for nearly 1,700 years, until, in 1748, excavators began to find its remains. Temples, theatres, baths, shops and beautifully-painted houses were uncovered, along with skeletons of the victims, sometimes in family groups. Soon Pompeii became famous and people came from far and wide to see it. They were amazed at what they saw.





In 1863 the archaeologist Guiseppe Fiorelli decided to try an experiment. He noticed that where a body had lain in the ash, it had left hollows in the shape of the body that had once been there. He poured plaster into one body space and waited for it to set. When the ashes around it were removed, he found that he was left with a plaster cast in the exact shape of the victim's body. Since then, many casts have been made and can be seen in Pompeii – sad reminders of the city's fate.

Vesuvius has not erupted since March 1944, but the volcano is not dead – only sleeping. Like all volcanoes, it has given the land around it rich soil which is easy to farm. Just as in Roman times, people have built their homes there and towns and villages crowd the shores of the Bay of Naples. One day Vesuvius will erupt again, but now, with modern scientific instruments checking the volcano each day, it is hoped that that no more lives will be lost.

Pompeii is not yet fully excavated, but its uncovered remains help us see what a Roman city really looked like, and how the Romans lived, worked and played.

