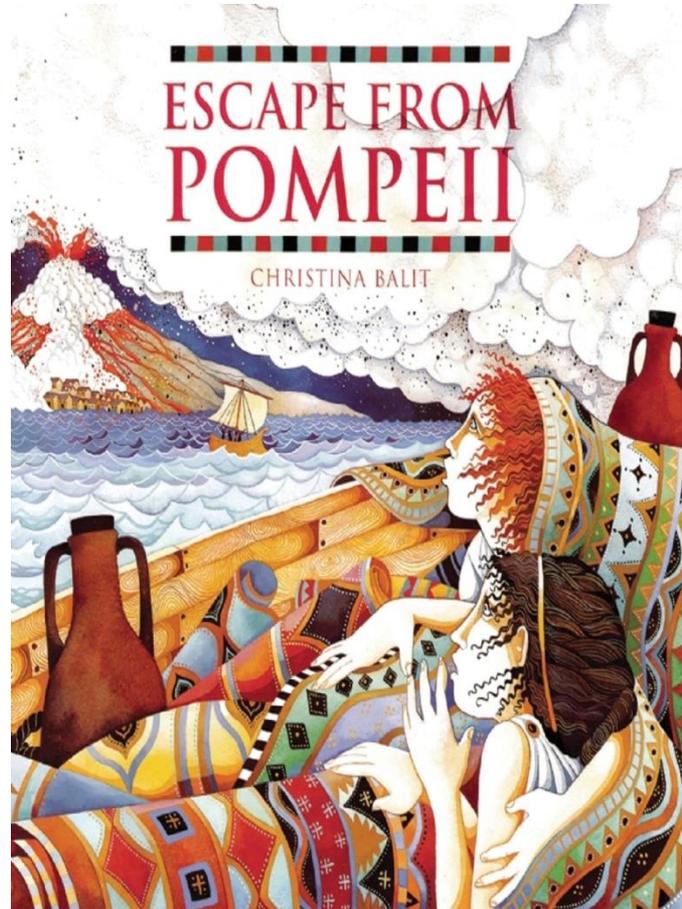


# Escape From Pompeii

W/C- 29/06/2020

# Activity 1



# Retelling the Story

Retell the story of the Escape From Pompeii to someone at home.

Try to use as much descriptive language as possible.

# Ordering

- Read the cards on the next page and arrange them in the correct order before checking you are right.

1 The walls, streets, and gardens of their beloved Pompeii disappeared beneath a blanket of ash and stones.

2 Streams of molten liquid flowed in fast rivers down the mountain slopes and covered a nearby town.

3 A massive cloud of silver ash rose to the heavens, twisting and bubbling in every direction until everything was in total darkness.

4 And then, in one terrible endless moment, they heard mighty Mount Vesuvius roar. Its top exploded in a scream, and flames ripped upward to the sky.

5 Lightning flashed and thunder roared.

# Answers- Read through

... ..

And then, in one terrible endless moment, they heard mighty Mount Vesuvius roar. Its top exploded in a scream, and flames ripped upward to the sky. A massive cloud of silver ash rose to the heavens, twisting and bubbling in all directions, until everything was in total darkness.

... .. liquid flowed

... ..

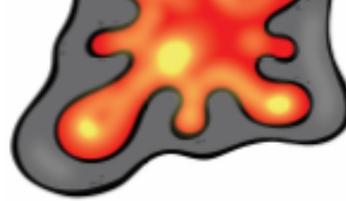
Lightning flashed and thunder roared. Streams of molten liquid flowed in fast rivers down the mountain slopes and covered a nearby town. The walls, streets, and gardens of their beloved Pompeii disappeared beneath a blanket of ash and stones. Before their very eyes, everything and everyone they had ever loved were destroyed.

Tranio and Livia held each other desperately when the steaming lava reached the sea itself. The water began to swell against the sides of the boat as it moved slowly out to safety.

They had left just in time. Soon the sea sank back from the shore and even the fish were stranded there.

... .. At first

Use the table to describe what happens during each stage of the eruption.



<p>The top explodes</p>	<p>An ash cloud rises</p>
<p>Molten lava flows</p>	<p>Everything is covered</p>

Look again at the text.  
What makes this description so effective?

Brainstorm some new alternative descriptive phrases that could be used for each part of the eruption sequence, recording them as you go.

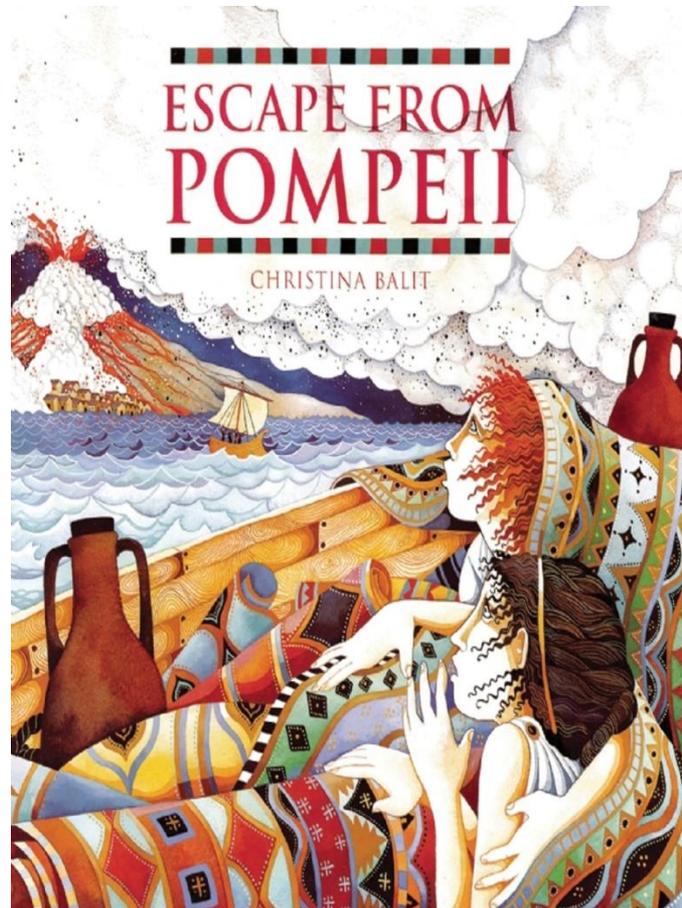
Use

Adjectives

Expanded noun phrases

Adverbial phrases.

# Activity 2



# Tasks

- Read through the following information and primary a source letter. ( You may need adult help with some of the more tricky words.)
- Then, complete a short burst descriptive writing task using the table of vocabulary you created yesterday.

These are the **ruins** of the **Roman city** of **Pompeii**.

Pompeii was a busy Roman city that was built near to the **volcano** **mountain, Mount Vesuvius**.

In the **year A.D. 79** Mount Vesuvius **erupted** and **buried Pompeii** and many of its **Roman citizens** under a **9 metre** thick **layer of burning hot ash**.

The remains of Pompeii have been **excavated** (dug out) by **archaeologists** to show us what the **Roman city** originally looked like, **2000 years ago**, and how Romans lived their lives.

**Archaeologists** also discovered some surprising things – that you will see later.

*What can you see in these pictures of Pompeii today?*



**Pompeii** was an important and busy Roman city 2000 years ago.

It is located 200 kilometres south of Rome, in the Bay of Naples on the coast of the Tyrrhenian Sea.

On this map of Europe you can see Italy.

On this map of Italy you can see Pompeii.



On this map of Italy you can see the Bay of Naples.

On this map of the Bay of Naples you can see Pompeii.



In **AD 79** Pompeii was a beautiful city.

Its grand public buildings, the Temple, the Forum were built of carved stone.

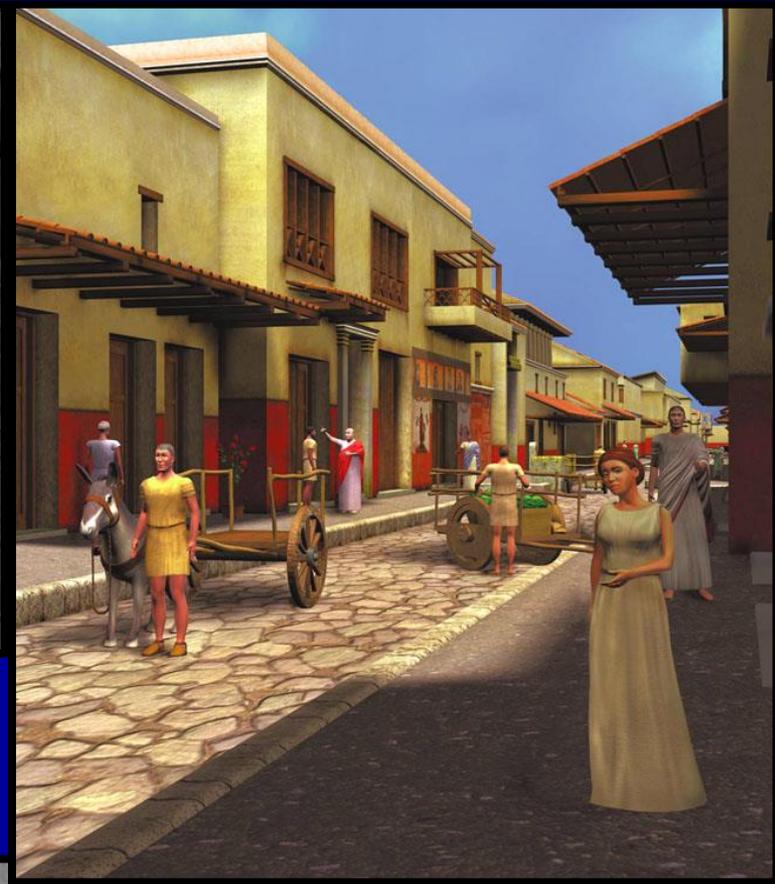
Its shops and houses were built of concrete. It had paved streets with pavements, running water and gardens.

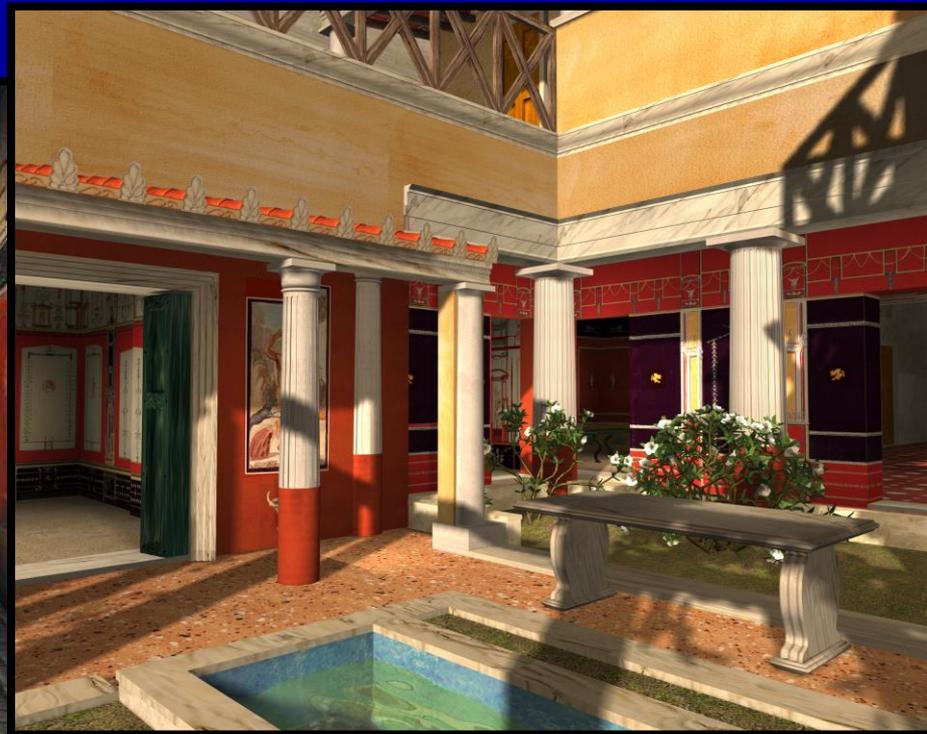




The streets of Pompeii would have been thriving with Romans shopping, buying fish, fruit and vegetables, meat, bread, clothes and household items.

Some would be going to the Temple to pray to their Roman Gods, or on their way to the Forum to hear the Senators and Councillors discuss news they had heard from Rome and talk about how to run their city of Pompeii.





**Wealthy Romans** lived in beautiful houses with richly decorated and painted walls and lovely gardens with pools and fountains. These wealthy Pompeii citizens would have had many servants to look after them and their houses.





The city even had its own **Amphitheatre** where the citizens of **Pompeii** would go, in the **afternoons** and **evenings**, to **watch plays** about **Greek and Roman Gods** and about **famous Greeks and Romans**.





But all of this busy living by the Roman citizens of **Pompeii** in **AD 79**, was done in the **shadow** of **Mount Vesuvius**. The **mountain volcano** had **not erupted** for so long (**hundreds of years**) that the **Romans** did not know that it was a volcano.

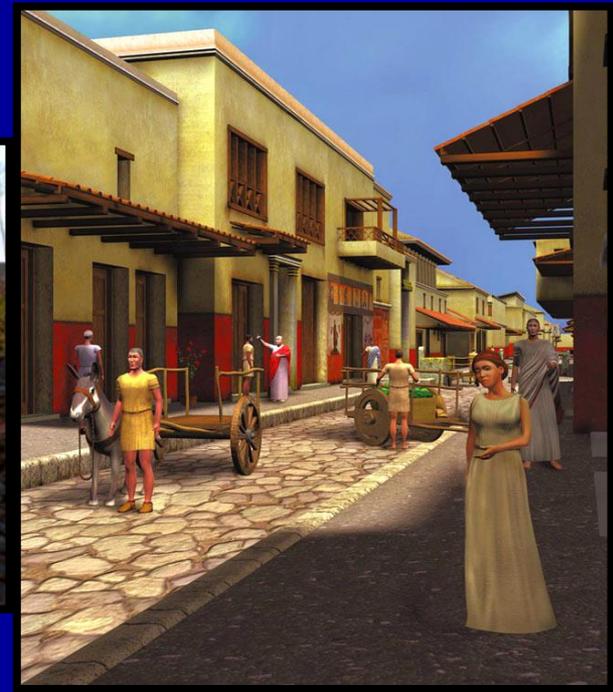
The people of **Pompeii** grew **crops and fruit** on the **slopes** of the mountain because the **soils** was very good for **growing plants**.



On **24<sup>th</sup> August AD 79**, in the afternoon, **Mount Vesuvius erupted** with a **massive explosion** that hurled **rock, ash and molten lava** hundreds of metres into the air.

**Lava** started to run down the slopes of the mountain, **destroying** all the **fields of crops and fruit** that the Romans had been growing in the **fertile volcanic soil**.





The **lava** was **flowing** down the **mountain**, **destroying** all their **crops**, but the **Romans of Pompeii**, were **not really worried**.

They **carried** on with their **everyday business**, thinking the eruption would not last very long, and the **lava** would **not reach** their **city**.

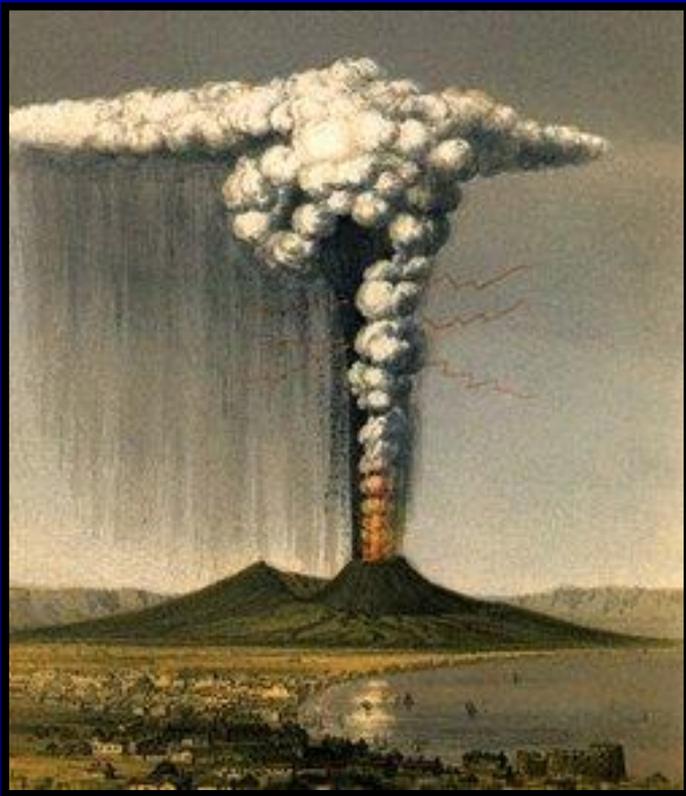


But then, **18 hours** after the volcano had first erupted, there was an **enormous explosion**, bigger than the first.

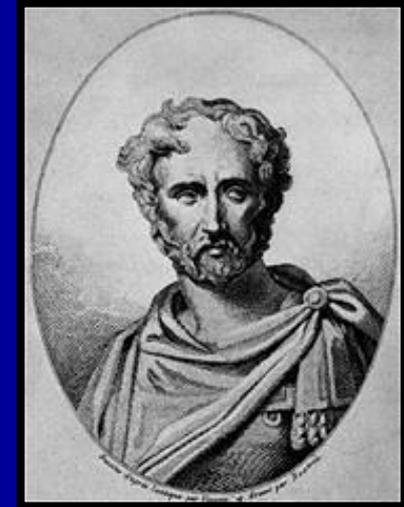
It **blew half the side of the mountain off** and a **huge cloud of red hot ash, rock and gas**, hurtled down the side of the volcano and straight **over the city of Pompeii**.

The **citizens** tried to **run to escape it**, but it was **too fast**.





**Stone Pine Tree**



**Pliny**

### ***Plinian* eruption of Mt. Vesuvius**

An important Roman who witnessed the Vesuvius eruption was a writer called **Pliny**. He tried to rescue some of the Pompeii citizens but he himself died from breathing in the hot ash and gas. He managed to write notes about the eruption before he died and he described the cloud of ash as like the branches of a **Stone Pine tree**.

Because **Pliny** was the first person ever to describe this type of volcanic eruption, scientists have named it after him – so we now have ***Plinian eruptions***.

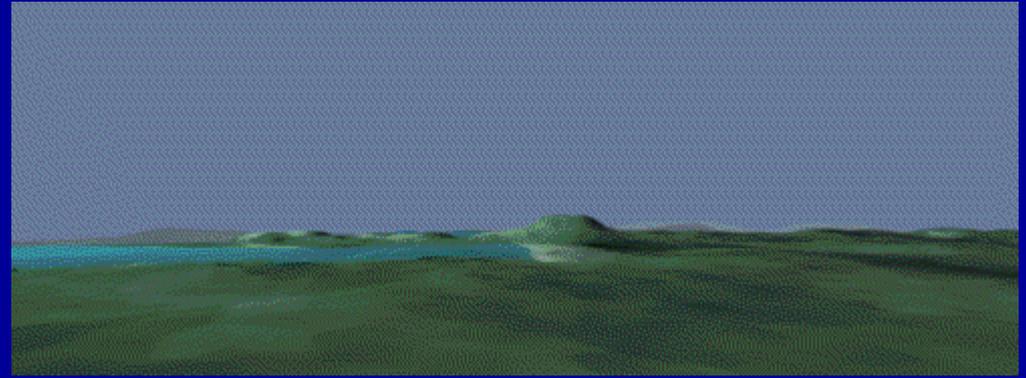
POMPEI

24 agosto 79 d.C.



This is how **Pliny** actually described the eruption of **Vesuvius** in his letters which were saved and copied by his son after Pliny's death.

*I cannot give you a more exact description of its appearance than by comparing to a stone pine tree; for it shot up to a great height in the form of a tall trunk, which spread out at the top as though into branches. ... Occasionally it was brighter, occasionally darker and spotted, as it was either more or less filled with earth and cinders.*

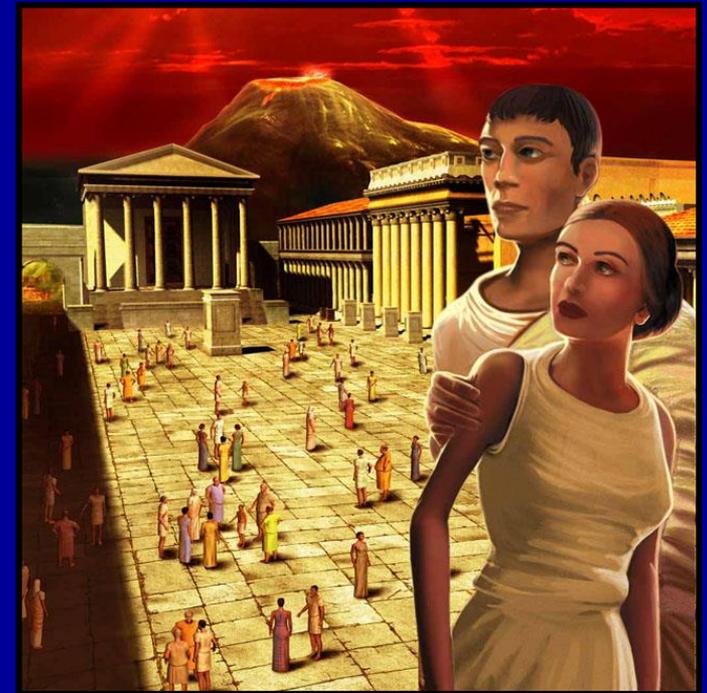


*Vesuvius eruption*

When the side of the mountain blew off, the citizens of Pompeii could not escape.

**Red hot ash, rock and gas** rushed down over the city at a **speed of 400 km per hour**. This rush of hot ash is called a ***Pyroclastic Flow***.

The citizens of **Pompeii** and their city were **buried in seconds** beneath a **layer of ash** and rocks **9 metres thick**.



This map of the Bay of Naples shows how far the volcanic ash was blown by the wind and spread across the area.

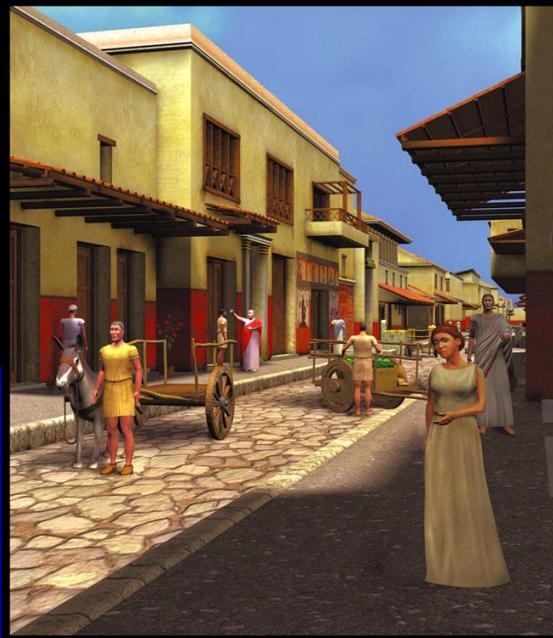
Ash completely buried the cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum.

The town of Stabiae was not buried so heavily, but it was the place where Pliny died after breathing in the ash and gas from the volcano.





**Archaeologists** discovered **Pompeii** in **1748**, and the whole city was finally **dug out of the thick layer of ash and soil in 1997**, nearly **2000 years later**. This photo shows that many of the **city's buildings survived being buried**. This is because so many of them were **made of stone or concrete**. Only wooden buildings or wooden parts of buildings were burnt away by the hot ash in AD 79.



Though the eruption of **Mount Vesuvius** in **AD 79** was a tragedy for the citizens of **Pompeii**, because the city and its people were **kept so well** by the **volcanic ash**, **archaeologists** have used it to help **us understand** a lot more about **how Roman people lived** over **2000 years ago**.

# Descriptive Writing Short Burst Task

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dY\\_3ggKg0Bc&t=47s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dY_3ggKg0Bc&t=47s)

Using the work we have done so far write a short burst description of Pompeii before, during and after the eruption of Vesuvius.

Try to include-

- Powerful adjectives and verbs
- Expanded noun phrases
- Adverbial phrases
- The 5 senses
- Similes

**Remember -**

Pompeii turned from a really nice place, to a really scary place. Don't forget Pompeii is by the sea.

On the next slides are some examples of children's writing about Pompeii and some pictures to help you.

It was a hot, busy market day, servants running for food.

No-one noticed Mount Vesuvius's top, smoking slightly.

No-one noticed the sinister orange glow.

The sun loomed in the bright blue sky. Too hazy.

Too hazy. Too bright.

The casual chatter fizzled and died.

Then; 'RUN!' someone yelled.

People pushed and shoved, desperate to escape.

BOOM! The volcano's top exploded, unleashing terror.

Lightning plunged its electric fingers down to earth.

Thunder rolled, playing a drum in the sky.

1976 July 12<sup>th</sup>. Crash! As I saw lightning strike the volcano  
an eruption occurred. (Hot lava shot out of the volcano like lightning, and  
lava was spreading). But what, there's more a pyroclastic flow appeared  
on the South side on the mountain, my tummy was churning, my throat  
was filled with ash and my teeth was chattering with gear. //

↑  
good show not till

The lava was going to reach one of the villages but then the people put  
up barriers to stop the lava getting through but lives will be lost. The  
pyroclastic flow smelled like sulphur, it looked like a dragon turning like  
a torpedo and it will destroy any thing in its way. // Trees broken, rivers  
turned to stone and houses diminished and closer to the cold ground. ✓

The smell of sulphur flooded the air.

The ground trembled and quaked in fear.

Ash twisted and turned, curling through buildings,  
falling like pepper onto the houses below.

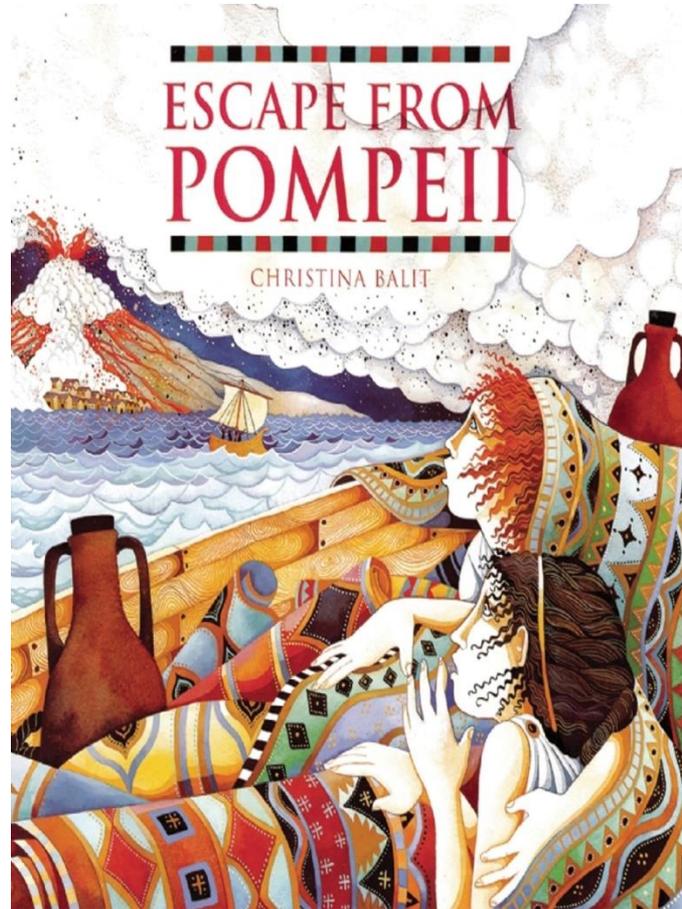
Lava swiftly streaked down the liquorice volcano,  
seconds later claiming belongings to destroy.

Trees fell, Rivers stopped, lava replacing water, earth  
turning to charcoal, even fires quenched by ash,  
and air was poisoned.

## Before and After Pictures of Pompeii



# Activity 3



# Your final Task for this topic

- To finish off the Escape from Pompeii work we would like you to write a letter.

A letter to a friend or family member imagining you were in Pompeii when Mount Vesuvius erupted explaining how you had to leave during the eruption just like **Pliny, Tarino and Livia** had too .

- Using descriptive and emotive language explain what happened to you and your family and how you escaped with your lives.

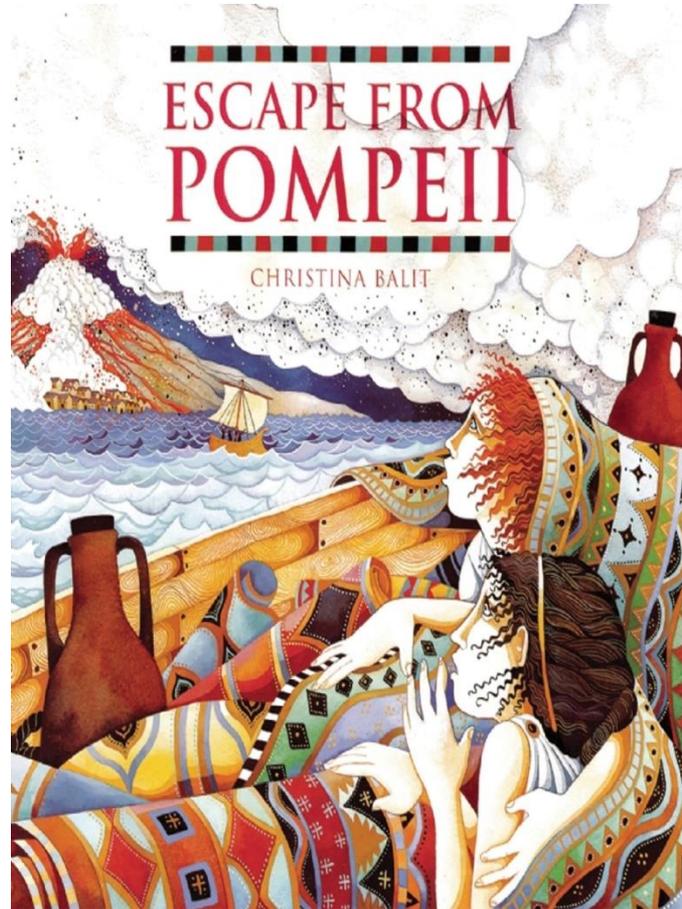
Now plan your letter ready to write  
over the next 1/2 days.

Letter Box Plan	Letter detail here
Dear	
P1- I am writing to tell you-	
P2 – Detail of where you were during the eruption	
P3 – Detail of what else happened	
P4 – Details on how you escaped	
P5 – Concluding- What happened to you in the end? Where did you end up?	
Sign off	

# How much should I write?

- Please remember how many paragraphs you would have written in class.
- You do not need to write all 5 if you don't think you can.
- Just do the best you can do.

# Activity 4



# Writing your Letter

Today you will write your letter to describe your own personal escape from Pompeii.

Try to include-

- To describe the different stages of the disaster.
- Sensory description – See, hear, touch, taste, smell.
- Powerful verbs/adverbial phrases.
- Emotive language.
- Expanded noun phrases To describe the different stages of the disaster.

# We hoped you enjoyed the Escape From Pompeii Topic

Well Done for completing all of the  
English Tasks this week.

Don't forget to show your teachers  
We really want to see how you  
have been getting on.

