

Archaeological site at Pompeii

After the devastating eruption in 79AD, Pompeii lay covered in a thick layer of ash for many years. It was rediscovered by **archaeologists** in 1748 and finally, in 1997 the whole city was uncovered. What they found hiding under the ash amazed them all.

I'm still standing!

Many of the buildings and stone structures were **preserved** under the ash, showing what Pompeii looked like and what kind of buildings the Roman people had.

In ancient Pompeii, one popular place was the theatre where people went to watch plays. This theatre, known as an **Odeon**, had space for 1,000 spectators.



House of Vettii



This was one of the most richly decorated homes in the city, with beautiful **mosaics** and paintings.

Bread was an important part of every Roman's diet. At this bakery you can see the remains of **mill stones**, which would have been used to make flour.



Fast food is not a new idea – the Roman had fast food over 2,000 years ago! Here, Romans could buy quick bites to eat including breads, cheese, fish and fruit.

Amazing Artefacts!



A wide variety of objects have been found at Pompeii such as statues, vases, bowls, pots, jewellery and tools. These are very important as they can tell us what people were doing, buying, selling and creating in the past.

Body Imprints

When Vesuvius erupted, the citizens of Pompeii were killed and buried under a thick layer of ash. When these bodies **decayed**, they left gaps in the ash. Archaeologists decided to fill these gaps with plaster to show what people in Pompeii would have looked like when they died. This discovery also told archaeologists how many people may have been living in Pompeii at the time.



All in all, the site at Pompeii is very special because of these body imprints and all the information these have given us about exactly what happened in 79AD. It is truly a window to the past!

Glossary

- **archaeologist** – a person who studies human history by digging up objects from the past
- **artefact** – any interesting object found at a historical site
- **decayed** – rotted away
- **mill stones** – round stones used to grind up grain to make flour
- **mosaic** – a type of artwork that uses very small tiles
- **Odeon** – a small theatre
- **preserved** – kept the same as it looked originally

1. When did archaeologists discover Pompeii? Tick **one**
1748
2017
1566 (1 mark)

2. What does **preserved** mean? Tick **one**
A small theatre
Kept the same as it originally looked
Rotted away (1 mark)

3. What is an '**Odeon**'?
_____ (1 mark)

4. What does the **bakery** tell us about Romans? Tick **one**
They enjoyed going to the theatre
There were a lot of female bakers
Bread was an important part of a Roman diet (1 mark)

5. Read the section called '**Amazing Artefacts**'. Name **two** different objects that archaeologist have found in Pompeii
_____ and _____ (1 mark)

6. **Find and copy** a word that means 'rotted away'
_____ (1mark)

7. Why is the archaeological site at Pompeii so **special**?

_____ (1 mark)