In the year AD 79, Pompeii was a wealthy city on the west coast of Italy. In August that year, the people of Pompeii began to see signs that the nearby volcano Mount Vesuvius was waking up. Vesuvius was often active. These prolonged signals did not scare most people. They went about their daily lives, sure the mountain would soon quiet down again. I believe they should not have been so certain.

On the morning of August 24, the top of the mountain split apart in a large blast. Smoke shot up into the sky, blocking out the sun. Birds fell dead from the sky. Terrified animals ran and tried to hide. Even then, many people took no precautions to protect themselves.

At first a layer of ashes began to cover the city. People simple brushed the powder off their clothes and hair. Before long though small pieces of rocks began to fall from above. Some people tied pillow to their heads to protect themselves. Later larger rocks began to fall. Many people fled the city, but some stayed behind. In my opinion those who stayed should have known they were in grave danger.

A foul odour filled the city. Deadly gasses seeped through the cracks in houses. People were forced to seek fresh air outside. There though the air was thick with dust and gases. The rocks still rained down. The people were forced back inside again.

Soon the city was covered in ashes and rocks nine feet deep. Roof tops caved in, trapping those inside. On August 25, a glowing mixture of rocks and molten rocks from the erupting volcano flowed over Pompeii, killing everyone in its path.

The once great city remained hidden under layers of ashes until1594. Then workers building a water channel nearby found the buried city. Since then, digging has continued. In 1860, an Italian scientist took over the project. We should all be grateful for his careful work. The most interesting results are plaster casts of bodies of human and animals. These casts show the frightened victims of Vesuvius frozen in time nearly 2000 years ago.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1. Why did people in Pompeii remained in the city when Vesivius erupted?

_____
_____
_____

2. Summarize what happened in Pompeii on August 24 and 25, AD79.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_

3. Which of the following is a statement of fact.
   a we should be grateful for his work.
   b.the excavation of Pompeii is quite a remarkable, in my opinion.
   c.plasters casts are extremely interesting.
   d. a volcano destroyed Pompeii in AD,79.

3b. How can you tell the statement is a fact?

_____
_____

4.Which of the following is a statement of opinion?

a. Mount Vesuvius erupted in A.D 79, burying the city of Pompeii

b. Workers found the buried city in 1594.

c. In my opinion the people of Pompeii should have known they were in great danger.

d. Since then, digging has continued.

6. How can you tell the statement in item 5 is an opinion?

_____
_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Use the word from the box to complete each sentence.

Erupting	molten	precautions	prolonged,	wealthy
Fooftops	terrified			

1. The archaeologists took careful_____ to make sure that no bones were disturbed.
2. A _____ business woman gave the money to help explore the ancient site.
3. With its fur standing on end, the fearful cat was clearly_____ terrified by the disaster.
4. The warning signs were _____ over a period of days.
5. The heat from the volcano turned the rocks into a _____ flow.
6. Rocks falling on the houses went through the _____.
7. First smoke then rocks shot from the top of the _____ volcano.

LIVEWORKSHEETS