A day in Pompeli

1. Listen then fill in the blanks

Narrator: August 24th, 79 AD started like any other day for Pliny the Younger. At the time, the eighteen-year-old was at home studying. He lived in the town of Misenum, across the bay from Pompeii. In letters _____ in the 16th century, he describes the _____ of Mt. Vesuvius.

Pliny the Younger: In the early afternoon, my mother and uncle noticed a cloud rising from Mt. Vesuvius. It looked like a huge tree. My uncle wanted to take a closer look. He asked me to come with him in his boat, but I stayed behind to finish my homework. Ashes were already falling, hotter and thicker as my uncle's boat got closer to Pompeii. Then small blackened stones, cracked by the _____, began to rain down. I began to hope my uncle would turn back. On Mt. Vesuvius, fire and leaping flames _____, their bright _____ emphasized by the darkness of night. When I woke up the next morning, my uncle was still not home. There was daylight by this time, but a _____ black cloud was coming, spreading over the earth like a _____.

Narrator: Pliny's uncle did not _____. The city of Pompeii, and the 20,000 people who lived there, were _____ beneath the ash. Mount Vesuvius still _____ the Bay of Naples. Its rich soils and warm climate _____ people to the area, just as they did 2,000 years ago. Only now, three-and-a-half million people live there. Vesuvius hasn't _____with the same force since that hot summer's day in 79 AD. According to the experts, eruptions this destructive happen every 2,000 years. The next one is _____.

2. Listen then answer the questions:

1. **Why did Pliny's uncle take his boat to Pompeli?**
2. **Why didn't Pliny go with his uncle?**
3. **What could Pliny see the next morning?**
4. **What happened to Pliny's uncle?**
5. **How many people lived in Pompeli in 79 CE? How many people lived in this area today?**
6. **According to experts, how often do these kinds of eruptions happen?**

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