

A day in Pompeii

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 Pompeii?
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 Pompeii in 79 CE? How many people lived in this area today?
6. According to experts, how often do these kinds of eruptions happen?

