

Reading

1 Work in pairs. Look at the pictures and answer the questions.

- What do these pictures show?
- What do you know about the Roman city of Pompeii?



2 Read the text. Find out what these numbers refer to.

79 A.D. 11,000 people 2,000 years ago 2.5 million tourists the eighteenth century

The Eruption of Mount Vesuvius

One of the most famous volcanic eruptions was Mount Vesuvius in 79 A.D. It destroyed the Roman city of Pompeii and killed about 2,000 people.

It's famous because when the volcano erupted, it made a lot of ash. This is a kind of soft rock. It covered Pompeii and the people, and nothing changed for a long time. It's one of the world's most important historical places because we can see how people used to live. Historians can understand what life was like 2,000 years ago.

After the eruption, the city was lost and then forgotten. Nobody knew about it until it was found in the eighteenth century. Historians found a rich city with theatres, public baths and big houses. At the time of the eruption, 11,000 people lived in the city. Lots of people went to Pompeii for their holidays. Today, it is a tourist attraction. It's a UNESCO World Heritage Site and it has 2.5 million visitors a year.

Mount Vesuvius could erupt again, but people living around the volcano will know before anything dangerous happens.

3 Read the text again. Then read the sentences and choose the correct answer.

1 The eruption of Mount Vesuvius is famous ...

- a because it happened in a Roman city.
- b because it killed a lot of people.
- c because the ash covered Pompeii and nothing changed for a long time.

4 The area around Mount Vesuvius ...

- a is a very dangerous place to live in.
- b isn't a dangerous place to live in now.
- c hasn't got any houses.

2 It's one of the world's most important historical places ...

- a because it lets historians see how people used to live.
- b because it is 2,000 years old.
- c because there are lots of interesting details.

3 When Mount Vesuvius erupted ...

- a there were 11,000 people on holiday.
- b the population of the city was 11,000.
- c the city had 2.5 million visitors a year.

Exam Tip!

Read the text carefully first. Then read the questions and find the part of the text where you will find the answer. The answers are in the same order in the text as the questions.