

## POMPEII

If you travel near Naples, Italy, [are/ you/ the] can explore the excavation site of [an/ top/ did] ancient Roman city, destroyed almost 2,000 [tame/ fried/ years] ago by a volcanic eruption. [So/ In/ Bit] 79 A.D., Pompeii had been [me/ a/ of] thriving community located on the slope [of/ but/ gin] an inactive volcano, Mt. Vesuvius, near [yet/ sock/ the] Mediterranean Sea. Roman soldiers had guarded [and/ ore/ the] city wall as gladiators fought, merchants [time/ sold/ wind] their goods, and women prepared meals.

The [towel/ people/ mouse] of Pompeii were performing their daily routines [wish/ teas/ when], all of a sudden, there was [set/ an/ pig] enormous explosion within the volcano. The [city/ tack/ slant] became dark, as a huge black [free/ paper/ cloud] formed over the volcano and blocked [up/ the/ trip] sunlight. Vesuvius spurted lava, stone, and [ash/ kite/ hit] over the city for seven days. Electric [storms/ butter/ pears] developed from the clouds of dust, [then/ area/ and] rain poured over the city, creating [a/ we/ ray] paste of the mud and volcanic [ash/ wish/ ship].

On the seventh day, carbon monoxide emerged [time/ from/ bake] Vesuvius. This poisonous gas killed 15,000 [at/ of/ so] Pompeii's 20,000 citizens. The 5,000 survivors [red/ kit/ had] fled the city before that fateful seventh [when/ day/ girl]. The bodies of those who had remained [were/ ship/ fix] covered beneath twelve to fifty feet [of/ rip/ top] hardened mud and ash. This cement mixture hermetically

[desks/ sealed/ window] the city. Because [tells/ ladder/ air] could not penetrate the seal, the contents [of/ it/ my] the city did not decay. The [read/ open/ city] was preserved.

The city lay buried [green/ under/ flown] this protective shield undisturbed for almost 1,500 [steal/ pies/ years]. In 1748, a Spanish Army engineer [began/ sweat/ nettle] to excavate the city in search [bit/ so/ of] treasure. He not only found treasure, [hat/ hum/ but] he also found Pompeii almost perfectly [treats/ intact/ sweat]. The petrified bodies of many citizens [sit/ of/ won] Pompeii were found well preserved under [black/ cattle/ layers] of paste.

A Roman soldier who [get/ had/ are] kept his post during the eruption [hide/ bad/ was] found still standing, wearing his armor. [Bite/ The/ Sum] stonelike bodies of merchants, gladiators, [and/ lap/ tip] priests were discovered "frozen" in action. Excavators uncovered [you/ the/ was] body of a man standing erect [with/ jump/ kept] a sword in his hand and [met/ his/ pen] foot on a pile of gold [then/ and/ area] silver pieces. He had apparently killed [rode/ come/ five] men who tried to steal his [break/ witch/ wealth] during the tragedy. Their bodies were [picket/ found/ girls] nearby on the floor.

Ovens contained petrified [loaves/ steal/ frees] of bread. Kitchen shelves held hardened [hall/ pet/ nuts], raisins, and figs. Wine and olives [height/ stored/ glues] in protective jugs and vats were [box/ to/ in] edible condition. Paintings retained unfaded color. Hundreds [we/ so/ of] years after the eruption, excavators could [live/ see/ and] how the people of Pompeii had [shoe/ once/ load] lived.