

**Can-U-Read**

**Pronouns**

Nouns are people, places, and things.

We give them names like Hanna,  
Virginia, and Xbox.

Sometimes we don't want to say the  
whole name.

We use pronouns for these things.

Pronouns are short words which tell us  
what kind of thing we are talking about.

He

She

It

They

We

Them

Us

Those

That

These

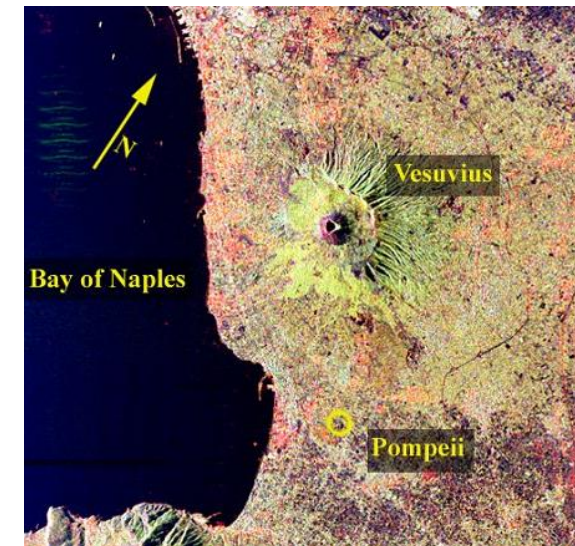
This

A few years after Jesus died there was a single bad day in one part of Rome.

South of Rome, near the mountain Vesuvius was a beautiful town next to the sea.

It was called Pompeii.

It would become famous, not for doing something good, but for dying in a horrible way.





For many years people didn't know what happened to Pompeii.

The volcano had covered the city with ash and it had turned to rock.

Around the time Daddy was born people began to dig into that ash.

Inside they found many strange things.



Some of the walls were perfectly intact.

There was beautiful art.

There were also lots of naked people.

Pompeii was not a very nice place.

People there were doing some bad things.





Long ago, Pompeii was the best party town in Rome.

It was on the sea shore, right under a very pretty mountain.

There were many people who lived there.

It was like Disney World to the Romans.



The streets of Pompeii were a little lower than the sidewalks.

People walked along the road or *via*.

There were tall rocks to cross the road without stepping in horse poop.

The rocks had holes in them to let carts by.

It was a very busy town.





The market in Pompeii was full of all kinds of great things.

They had restaurants where people could sit and eat.

The big pots had soup always ready for people walking by.

There were pottery stores, jewelry stores, clothing stores, and bakeries.





The city was famous for its baths.

The baths were hot and cold pools.

They had bright colored paintings all around.

The Roman's came to Pompeii to enjoy the baths and have a vacation.

Some of those baths were also naked places.





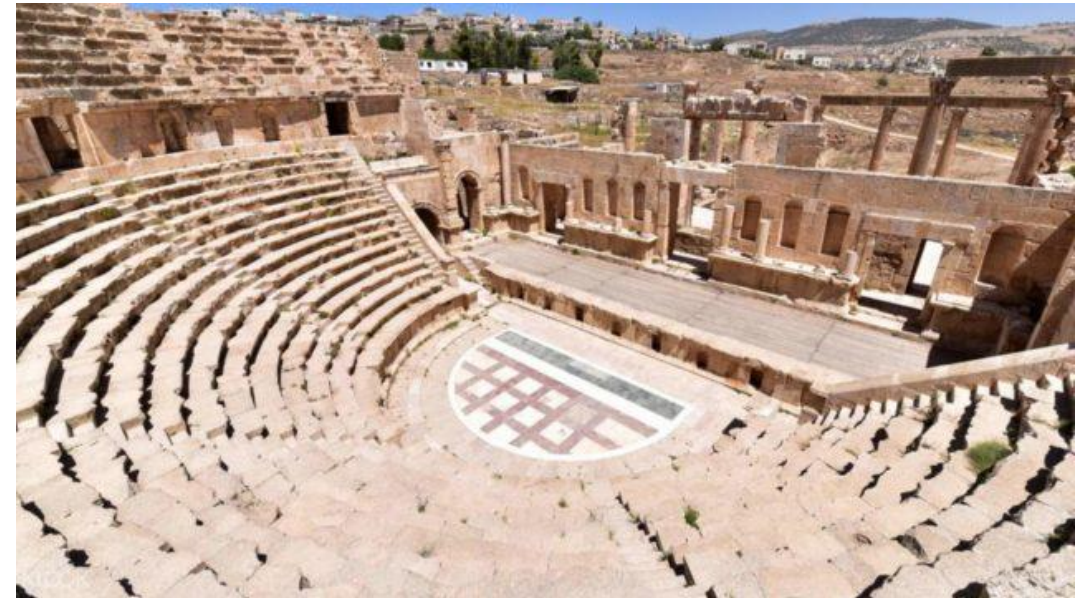
Romans also liked plays, fights, and art.

They came to Pompeii to see statues.

They came to watch the best plays.

They came to see people die.

Pompeii was not a very nice place.





The mountain near Pompeii was really a quiet volcano.

Mount Vesuvius had been sitting quietly for many years.

It looked so pretty.

Sometimes it rumbled, but no one thought it was dangerous.

That was about to change.



On that morning, the volcano started to spit ash into the air.

It would have covered everything with a gray color.

All the beautiful art and life of Pompeii was a dirty, dull place.

People were scared, but where could they go?





Then things got worse.

Late in the day there were lava bombs.

Hot rocks shot out of the volcano and fell on the city.

Fires started. People were hurt.

It was too late to run anywhere.



Some people ran to the sea to get away.

Very few made it.

The volcano made a great wave.

Many of the boats were destroyed.

Still people stayed by the sea wall hoping they would be safe.





When people began to dig into the ash of Pompeii that found funny holes in the ash.

What were they?

Someone tried to pour plaster into the space before they dug.

It would make a small statue which showed what was inside.



It turned out that those empty holes were people.

The ash had covered them and froze them in place.

Their bodies had gone away, but the holes were left in the ash.

People crying. People hugging. People scared.

So many people left behind a shadow of themselves.





Even some animals were left behind.

A dog hurting from the bad air and hot ash.

A horse dead in its stable.

Some people tried to hide, but it didn't make any difference.

Pompeii died.



By the sea wall, many people had hidden and hoped for protection.

The volcano didn't know or care.

The people at Pompeii died in large groups.

Later people found their bones and learned their stories.





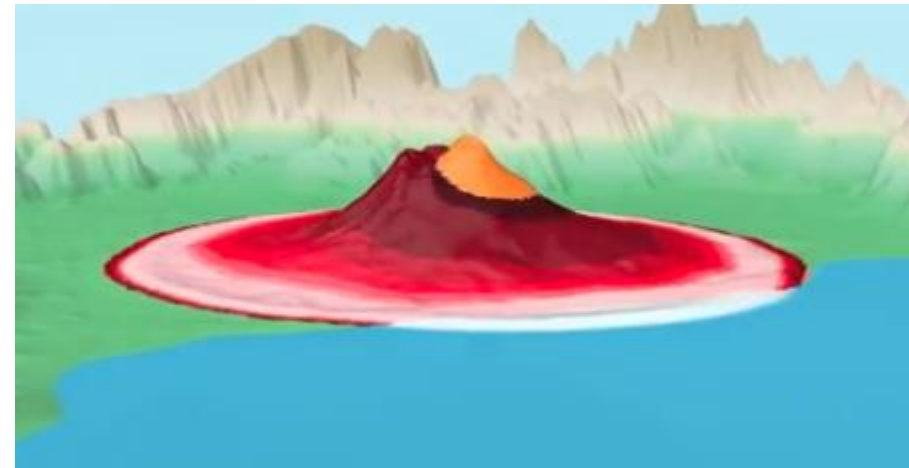
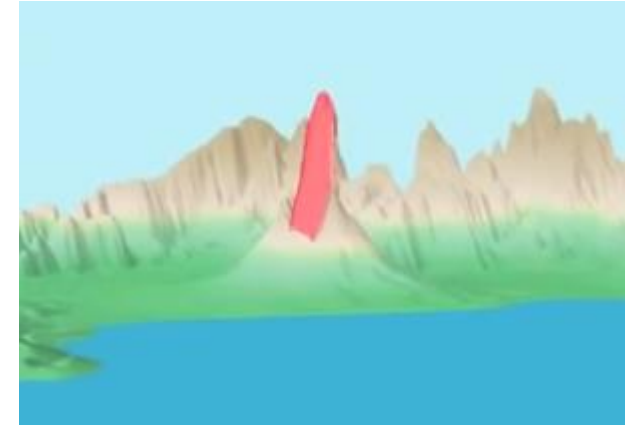
Late that night Vesuvius shot a cloud of hot ash high in the air.

Just a few minutes later the cloud fell down and swept out from the mountain.

This was a pyroclastic cloud.

It was hot, poisonous, and deadly.

The people at Pompeii had no chance to get away.



Today, many people visit Pompeii.

They walk through the streets and look at what life was like back then.

The streets of Pompeii are alive again.

Many people in Italy are ashamed of the bad things the Romans used to do.

They sometimes hide the naked places.





Scientists are still looking at Pompeii.

Every year they learn a little more about the people who lived there.

Sometimes we can learn more about ourselves, too.



# THE END

