



**History Topic:** What happened to Pompeii?

**Year: 4 Term:** Summer 2

**Key Knowledge/Content:**

- **Chronological understanding-** Understand the timeline of the eruption.
- **Historical enquiry-** Ask questions about the eruption at Pompeii and try to find the answers.
- **Interpretations of the past-** Use the excavation site at Pompeii to deduce information.
- **Knowledge and understanding-** Use sources to deduce what life was like during the eruption.
- **Compare and contrast-** Compare the fates of different people in the eruption.

**Key vocabulary with definition:**

**Prior vocabulary:**

- **Romans-** The civilisation occupying Britain and other parts of Europe during the eruption of Pompeii.
- **Emperor-** Someone in charge of a civilisation.
- **Empire-** A civilisation. In the Romans time, there was the Roman empire.

**New vocabulary:**

- **Mount Vesuvius-** The name of the volcano near Pompeii.
- **Volcano-** A natural formation of rock that erupts when pressure builds up, releasing lava and hot air.
- **Active-** Erupting regularly.
- **Dormant-** Not erupting, or sleeping.
- **Amphitheatre-** A large, outside theatre.
- **Vulcan-** A famous, Roman god, whose name stood for “volcano”.
- **Excavation-** The uncovering of a place from the past.

**Links to:**

**Prior learning:**

To learn about the Roman empire, which was prominent across Europe at the time of the eruption.

**Future learning:**

To explore more recent disasters in human history, such as World War II.

**By the end of this unit**

**All children can:** **understand** the timeline of events during the eruption and **describe** the disaster of Vesuvius destroying the city of Pompeii.

**Most children can:** **use sources** to understand more about the destruction of Pompeii and **explore** the excavation site of Pompeii today.

**Some children can:** **explain** what we can find out from a first-hand account of the eruption and **understand** impact the Roman beliefs about the god Vulcan.

**Background understanding for teachers and parents:**

In this unit, children will look in detail at the destruction of the city of Pompeii by the volcano Vesuvius. They will use sources and the excavation site to deduce more information.

**Curriculum Driver (one):**

Knowledge of the world

**Evidence outcome:**

Understand how the eruption of Vesuvius impacted and destroyed the city of Pompeii in Italy.