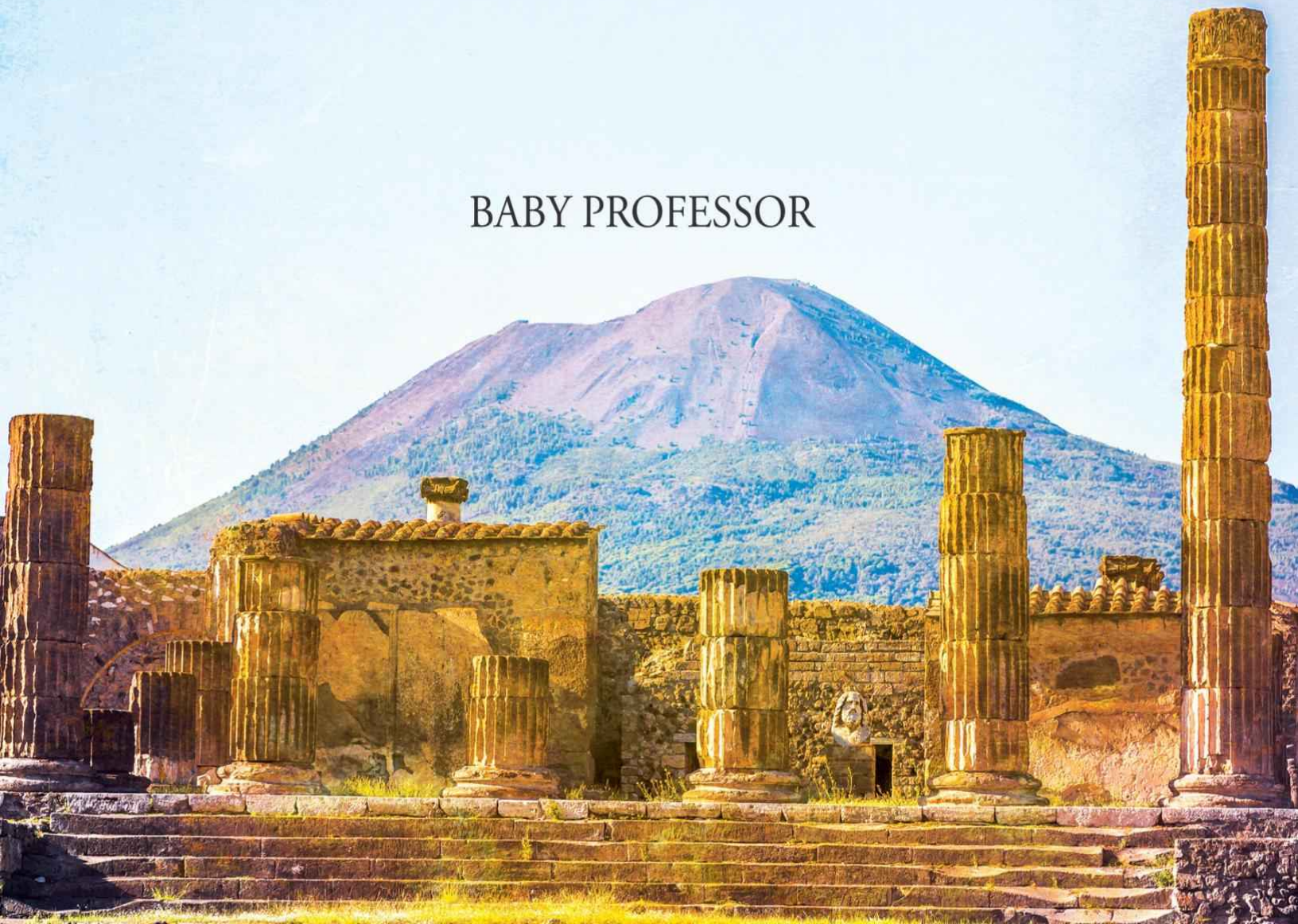


WHAT HAPPENED TO POMPEII?

ANCIENT ROME HISTORY FOR KIDS

Children's Ancient History

BABY PROFESSOR



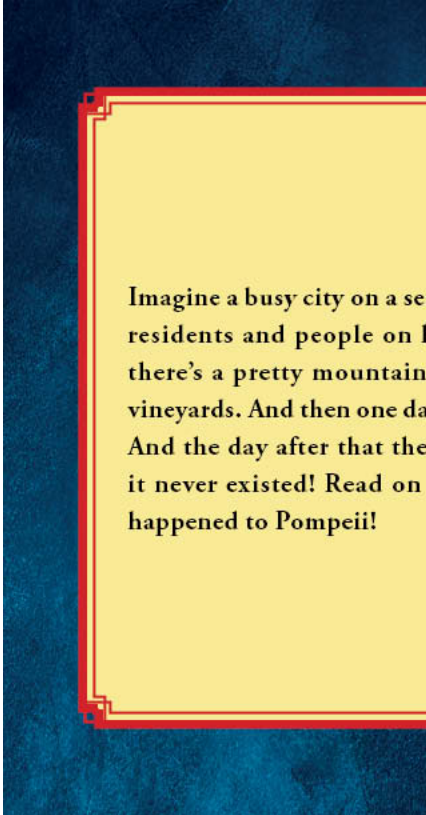
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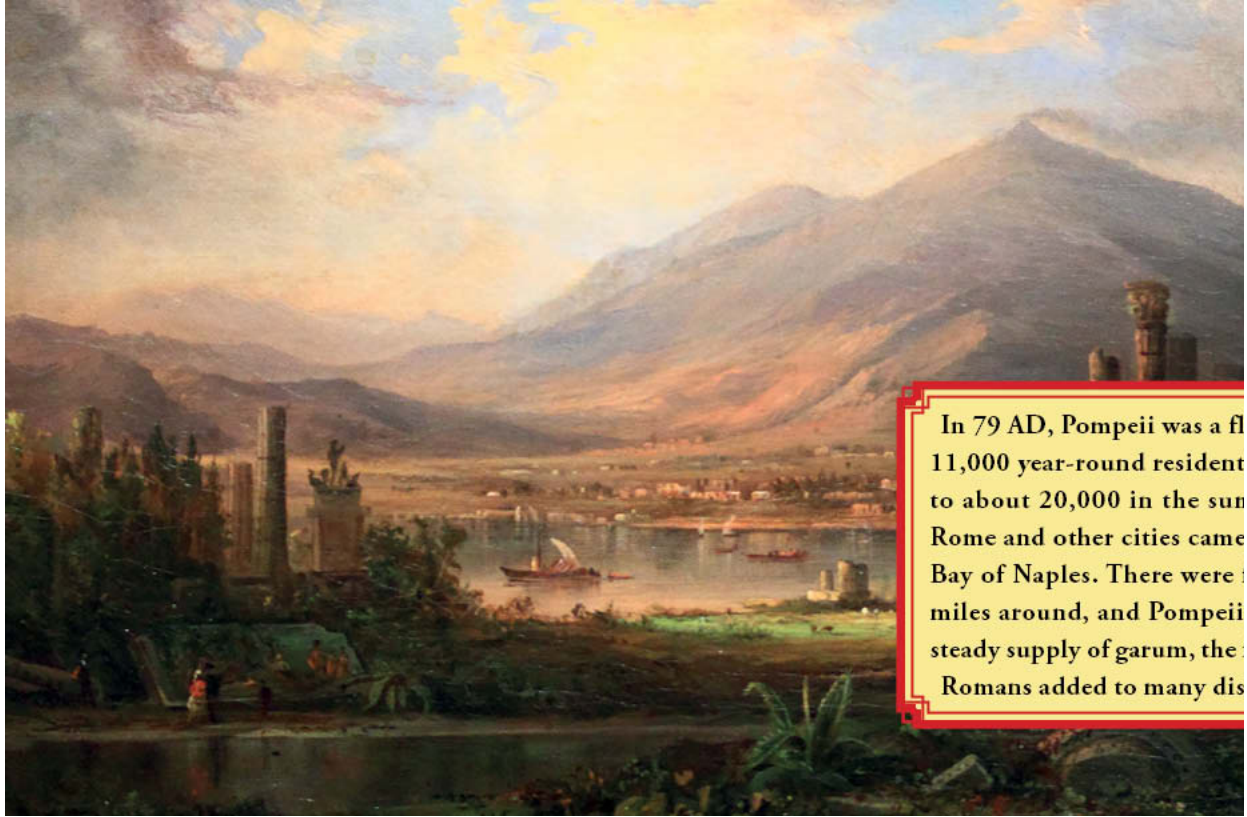


**Imagine a busy city on a sea
residents and people on land
there's a pretty mountain
vineyards. And then one day
And the day after that the
it never existed! Read on
happened to Pompeii!**

WHAT WAS POMPEII?

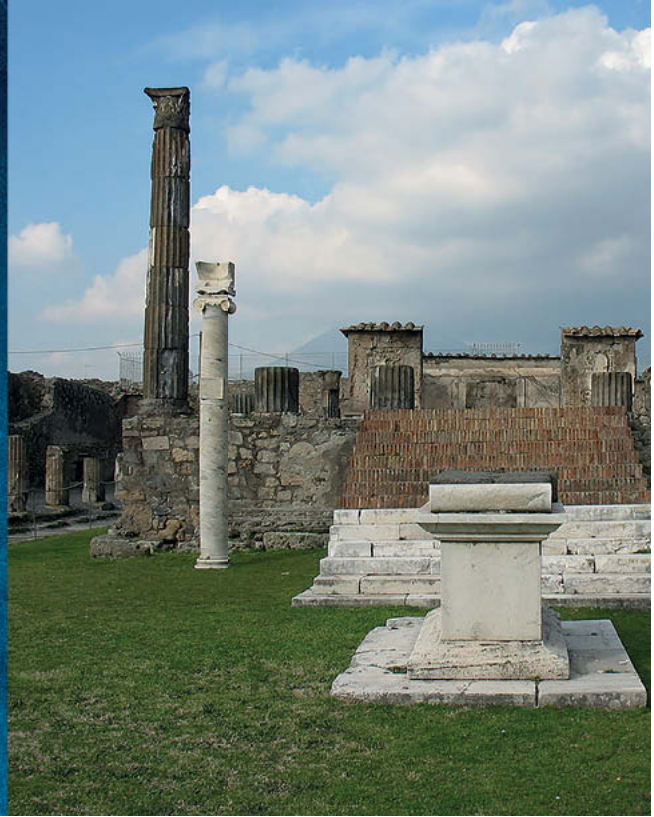
Pompeii was a city on the Italian coast south of Naples. It was founded by the Oscan tribe around 800 BCE, and became part of the Roman Republic around 400 years later.





In 79 AD, Pompeii was a flourishing city with a population of about 11,000 year-round residents and a total population of about 20,000 in the summer. The city was a major center of commerce, and many Roman senators and other prominent figures came to the Bay of Naples. There were several miles around, and Pompeii had a steady supply of garum, the most popular Roman condiment. The Romans added to many dis-

The city had temples, an amphitheater, public baths, government offices, small businesses and elegant private residences. There were restaurants and sidewalk retreats where people could drink wine together and enjoy the view. Pompeii had an aqueduct that brought fresh water from miles away, and a busy shipping port with both fishing boats and cargo ships coming and going.

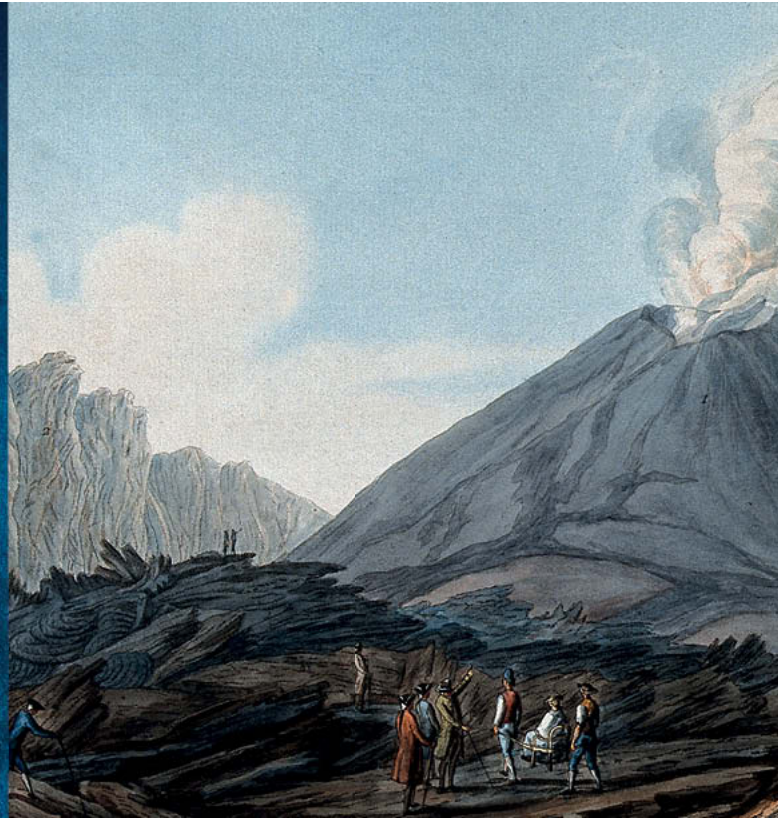




POMPEII'S BIG

A few miles inland there was Vesuvius. People knew it had and it occasionally gave off even fire, but it had not had recorded history. People did not know it was an active volcano. Farms, fields, and the slopes of Vesuvius and

What we know now, but people in those days did not know, was that Mount Vesuvius was a very dangerous volcano. It has erupted over 50 times since it first pushed through the Earth's crust.





Vesuvius is above the border of tectonic plates (the huge surface of the earth over the oceanic crust) press into each other, and is, crumpling under the weight of the oceanic crust. To learn more about volcanoes, see the Baby Professor book, *Before and After Volcano*. The Earth is like an onion. The plates create a gap, and magma rises to the surface, erupting through a vent and other material high in the atmosphere, causing immense damage.

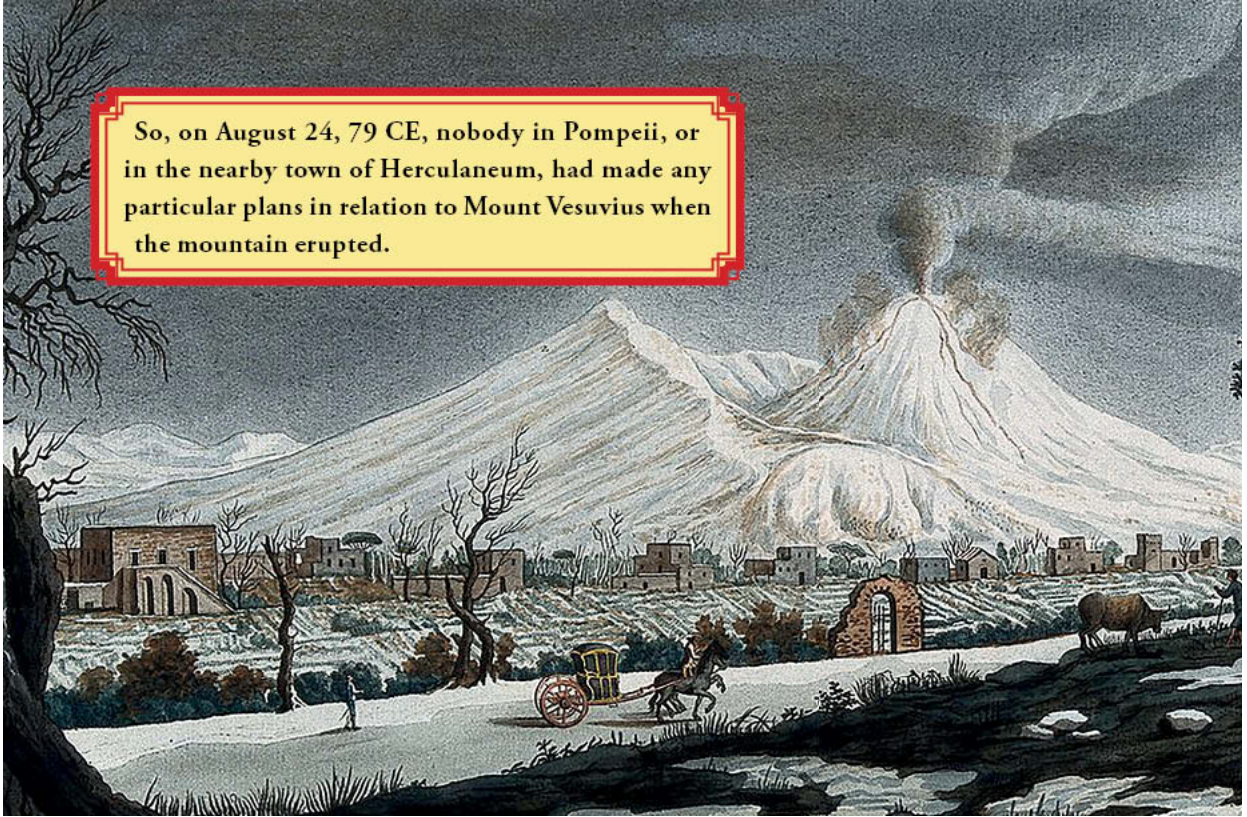
Scientists have learned that the last eruption of Vesuvius had been about 1800 years previously, and had destroyed many human settlements in the area, but the people of Pompeii in 79 CE did not know about that. They knew that the mountain sometimes threw plumes of smoke, and that it sometimes rumbled.





People in those times were not aware of the connection between earthquakes and volcanoes. In places where you have the one, you also have the other, too, because many are located at the edges of two tectonic plates moving past each other. Pompeii had experienced several earthquakes or tremors, and a large earthquake struck the city seventeen years earlier, which helped to connect the mountain with

So, on August 24, 79 CE, nobody in Pompeii, or in the nearby town of Herculaneum, had made any particular plans in relation to Mount Vesuvius when the mountain erupted.

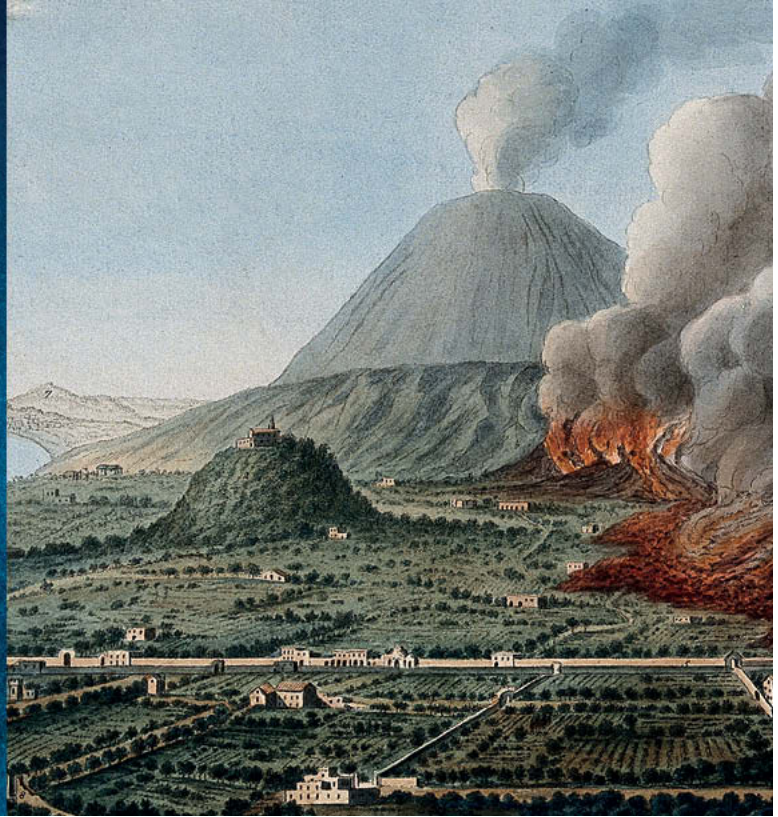




THE ERU

A historian named Pliny the
the Elder, was an admiral and
villa across the Bay of Naples
erupted. He saw the gigantic
and gases that rose miles in
the volcano.

He later wrote that the pillar of smoke was like the trunk of a great pine tree, and that it rose in a column for an immense distance before splitting in different directions, like the branches of a tree.

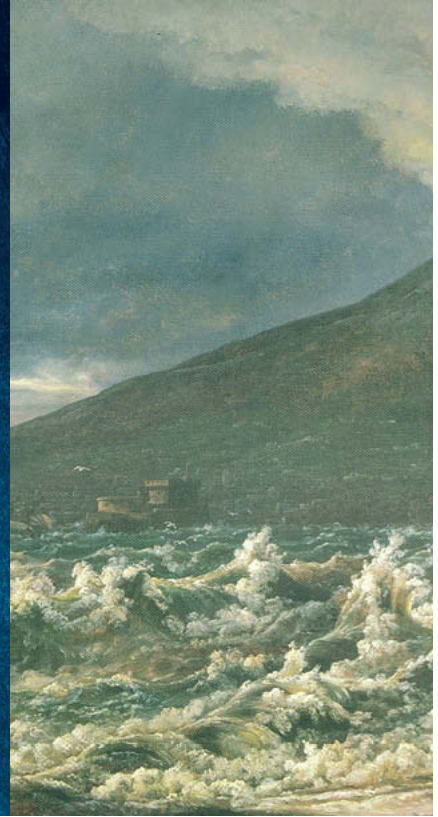




A FALL OF DUST

As the rocks, dust, and gases
very hot. As they cooled, t
toward earth in a dense rain
Pompeii, while others went
brooms to try to keep the roc
the weight of the ash and ro

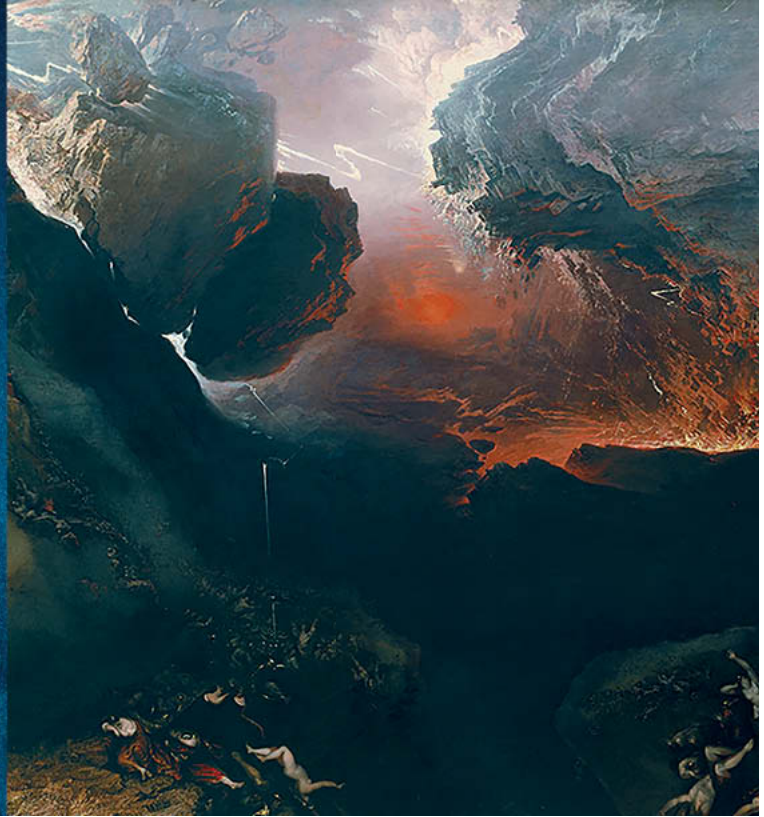
Much of the rock that was falling was pumice, a sort of frothy, light rock like a frozen sponge. Of course, even a light rock doesn't feel good if it lands on your head after falling for miles, and more people tried to leave Pompeii.





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The decks were covered in pumice and ash, and the air became hard to breathe. The ships had to land down the shore from Pompeii and could not rescue many people. Pliny the Elder, who was not young and was very overweight, collapsed and died in the foul air and under the rain of rock and dust.

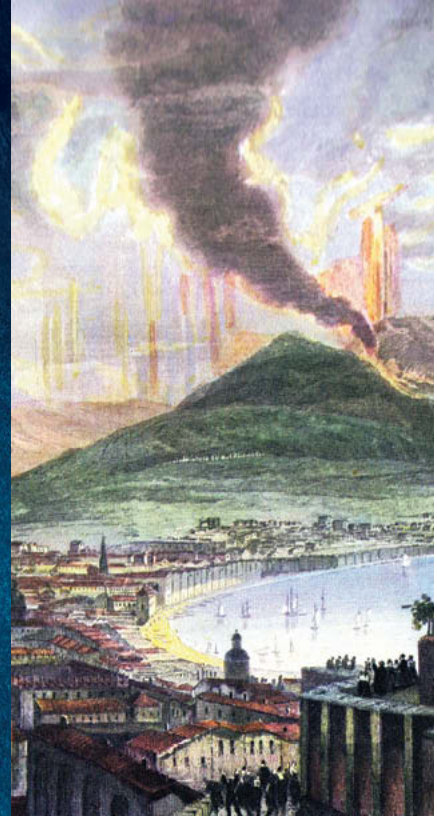




Pliny the Younger, even fr
horrified by the size of the e
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LAVA, MUD AND GASES

The volcano continued to erupt for a whole day, spreading ash and pumice for many miles. A huge, fast flow of rock, lava and mud came down the side of the mountain and buried the town of Herculaneum and the city of Pompeii. The flow moved faster than a horse could run, and with it came a wave of poison gas.





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DUST

And after the flow of lava had stopped, the ash and pumice kept falling. The dust buried Pompeii to a depth of 15 feet, and Herculaneum under more than 40 feet of ash, mud and lava.





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THE LOST CITY

Usually after a natural disaster, the survivors eventually rebuild their town. This did not happen with Pompeii. The damage was so great that there seemed no way to start over. People left Pompeii and Herculaneum buried. The city was lost, although it was not forgotten.

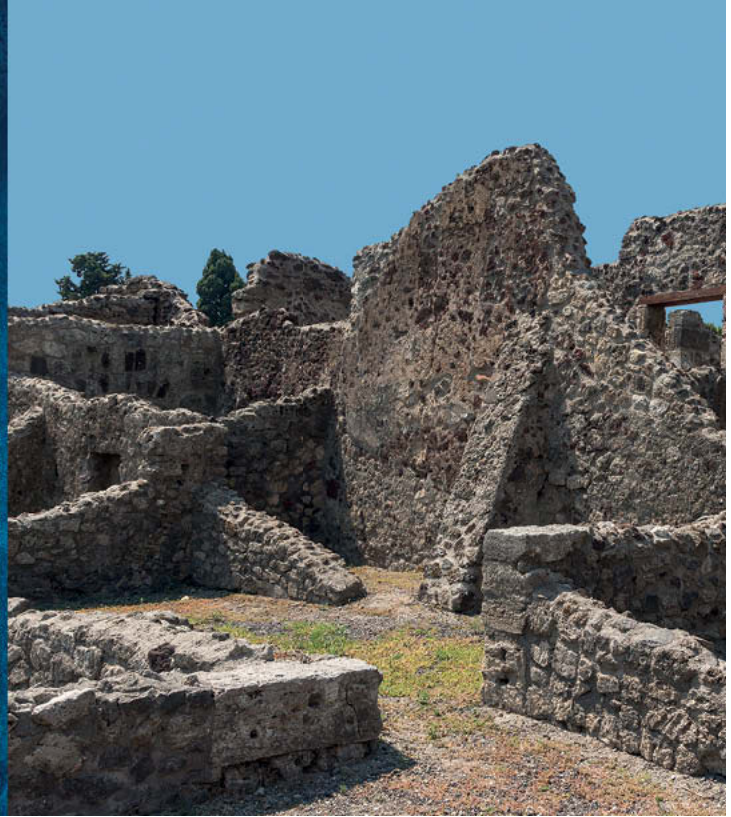




THE CITY UN

Much later, in 1748, an
leadership of an engineer
slow job of digging through
Pompeii.

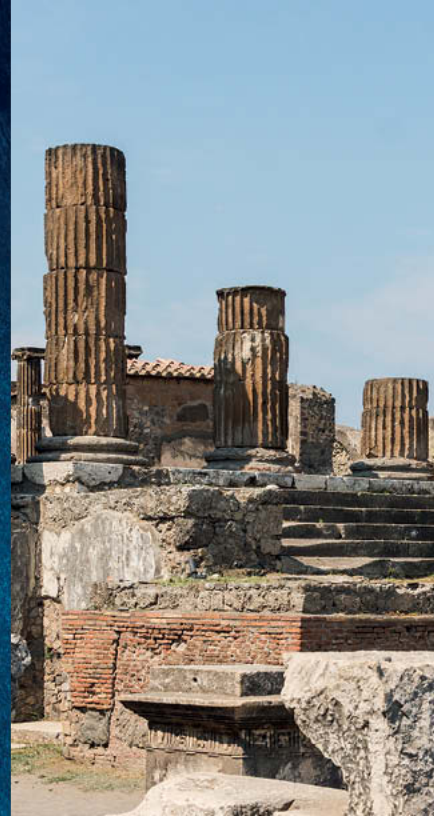
They found that the layer of debris had formed a seal over the city, preserving everything from the effects of air, sunlight, and water. It also mostly kept robbers over the centuries from stealing precious things from the ruins of Pompeii.





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On the walls of many houses in Pompeii are bright murals that show adventures of the gods and heroes of Greek and Roman myths, and also the everyday pursuits of the people who lived in those houses. From the jars and pots of food, historians and scientists have learned a great deal about the diet of the average Roman, and what the cargo ships carried to and from the city.





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Tourists have been visiting Pompeii for the last 250 years, observing the excavations and marvelling at the chance to walk through the streets of a city that in many ways is as it was two thousand years ago. It is the most popular tourist site in Italy.





HISTORY TO OUR P.

Finding Pompeii again has
much more of what it was like
in the first century C.E. Learn
help us understand more ab

Read other Baby Professor books, like *The Daily Life of a Roman Family in the Ancient Times* and *Who Were the Barbarians?*, to learn more about the Roman Empire.



