



RI.2.4/ RI.3.4- Unknown Words Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Ancient City of Pompeii

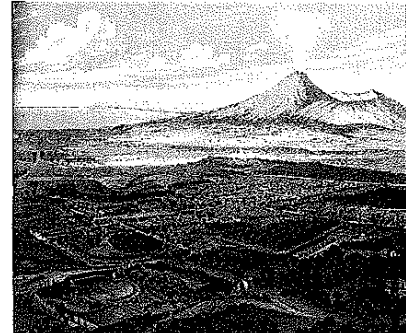
Mount Vesuvius, a volcano in Italy, violently erupted in 79 A.D. The volcanic ash from this eruption buried the entire **ancient** Roman city of Pompeii. This caused two thousand people to die. The city was abandoned for nearly two thousand years after.

Explorers rediscovered Pompeii in 1748. Buried under the ashes, they found that most of Pompeii was still undamaged. The explorers found buildings, everyday items, and even skeletons. These **artifacts** have taught us about life in ancient Italy.

Before the eruption, Pompeii was a favorite vacation spot for the rich. The city was very **prosperous**. There were large and luxurious houses, shops, cafes, and markets.

**Historians** estimate that about 20,000 people lived in and around Pompeii before the eruption. After the volcano erupted, ashes, **pumice**, other rocks, and hot gases flew into the sky. People could see these clouds from hundreds of miles away. This warning gave many people time to escape. As time passed, ash filled the air and made it difficult to breathe. Then, a rush of poisonous gas and rock raced down the mountain at 100 miles per hour. The volcano's ash **engulfed** the city.

Since the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 A.D., there have been more than 35 eruptions. The last one happened in 1944. Scientists believe that an eruption may be due at any moment. An eruption would cause **immense** damage because three million people now live near this volcano.



Pompeii with Mount Vesuvius in the background

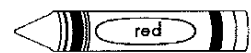


Painting: The last day of Pompeii

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated.

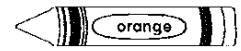
1. What is the meaning of "ancient" as it is used in the first paragraph of the passage?

- a. small
- b. poor
- c. young
- d. very old



RI.2.4/ 3.4- Unknown Words

2. Read these sentences from paragraph 2 of the passage:

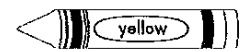


*The explorers found buildings, everyday items, and even skeletons. These **artifacts** have taught us about life in ancient Italy.*

What does the word "artifacts" mean in paragraph 2? (Pick all that apply.)

- a. tools
- b. items
- c. people
- d. objects

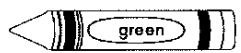
3. What is the meaning of the word "prosperous" in paragraph 3?



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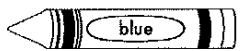
4. What is the meaning of the word "historians" in paragraph 4?



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5. Read this sentences from paragraph 4 of the passage:



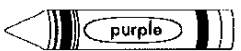
*After the volcano erupted, ashes, **pumice**, other rocks, and hot gases flew into the sky.*

What does the word "pumice" mean in paragraph 4?

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6. What is the meaning of the word "immense" in paragraph 5?



- a. no
- b. some
- c. minor
- d. enormous