

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Mount Vesuvius



**A** famous volcano sits on the west coast of Italy, near the city of Naples. Mount Vesuvius is 4,203 feet (1,280 meters) tall. The larger volcanic arc it's part of is around 400,000 years old, but Vesuvius is only about 25,000 years old.

Mount Vesuvius's eruption in 79 C.E. was one of the worst in history. It lasted two days. It completely destroyed several cities and villages. Pompeii is the most well-known, but not the worst hit. Herculaneum—named like the hero, Hercules—was buried under 50–80 feet (15–25 meters) of rock and ash.

Mount Vesuvius has likely erupted at least 30 times since then. The most recent



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\_\_\_\_\_ Italy made Mt. Vesuvius a national park.

\_\_\_\_\_ Mt. Vesuvius last erupted about 30 years ago.

\_\_\_\_\_ Pompeii was hit the hardest in the 79 C.E. eruption.

\_\_\_\_\_ Mt. Vesuvius is an active volcano.

2. What does *erupt* mean?

- a.** shoot lava      **b.** explode      **c.** destroy      **d.** shake

3. How much younger is Mt. Vesuvius than the rest of its volcanic arc?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Would you climb Mt. Vesuvius? Use a detail from the text as support.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## ANSWER KEY

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Mount Vesuvius has likely erupted at least 30 times since then. The most recent was in 1944. Vesuvius is still considered active, but millions of people live nearby. Italy

# Preview

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