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 was in 1944. Vesuvius is still considered active, but millions of people live nearby. Italy

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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

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.

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fals... Vesuvius last erupted about 30 years ...

false ... was hit the hardest in the 79 ...

true ...

2. What does *erupt* mean...

a. shoot lava b. explo... d. shake

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

Mt. Vesuvius is about 375,000 years younger.

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

Answers will vary. Examples are: Yes, because it's a national park so it must be safe. // No, because it has destroyed cities and could be dangerous.

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