

Teacher Resource



Gladiator's helmet
© Alfredo and Pio Foglia

A DAY IN POMPEII

21 MAY - 5 SEPTEMBER 2010

www.museum.wa.gov.au/pompeii

A Day in Pompeii Self-guided Experience

Overview : Step back in time and discover what life was like in the ancient city of Pompeii before it was buried by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. Feel the terror of the town's citizens during the eruptions with an immersive 3D theatre presentation! Body casts, photo murals, and hundreds of archaeological artefacts bring history alive and provide your students with a look at daily life in a bustling Roman city.

Duration : Approximately one hour (includes 3D movie and exhibition)

Your group/s are welcome to explore the remainder of the Museum's galleries before or after viewing the *A Day in Pompeii* exhibition. We recommend that teachers become familiar with the Museum's layout and collections by visiting the Museum prior to their excursion date.

What your class will experience:

- View a 3D movie showing what residents of Pompeii would have experienced when Mount Vesuvius erupted.
- Examine more than 250 archaeological objects from ancient Pompeii.
- Explore a variety of themes including business, lifestyle, private residences, medicine, religious beliefs, and burial practices.
- Use the *Junior Explorer's Trail* to look at daily life in a bustling Roman city.

Excursion Booking and Enquiries:

A Day in Pompeii Excursion Bookings

Please contact BOCS Ticketing Group Bookings Department on (08) 9321 6831 for all school bookings for the *A Day in Pompeii* exhibition. Please refer to *A Day in Pompeii* Excursion Essentials for important booking and excursion information.

Museum Education Bookings and Enquiries

(not to be contacted for *A Day in Pompeii* bookings):

Phone: 9427 2792

Fax: 9427 2883

Email: education@museum.wa.gov.au



Please refer to www.museum.wa.gov.au/education or our 2010 Education Programs brochure (available on our website or in hard-copy form) for an overview of the range of facilitated programs and self-guided experiences available for school groups.



Mount Vesuvius,
© Museum Victoria.

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Gladiator's bronze and silver shield
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Links

Curriculum

A Day in Pompeii provides a variety of opportunities for schools to integrate into classroom programs in the following learning areas:

Science

Society &
Environment

The Arts

Galleries



A Day in Pompeii 3D Theatre experience,
Hackett Hall, Foyer Basement



A Day in Pompeii,
Temporary Exhibition Gallery, Beaufort Street Wing



Gold coins provided portable saving
© William Starling, Alabama, USA

At the Museum

Self-guided Experience

Approximately one hour (includes 3D movie and exhibition)

Step back in time and discover what life was like in the ancient city of Pompeii. A spectacular immersive 3D presentation will allow visitors to experience the dramatic eruption of Mount Vesuvius that wiped out this amazing city. More than 250 exquisite objects including marble sculpture, gold jewellery and delicate frescoes evoke the richness and culture of life during the Roman Empire. *A Day in Pompeii Junior Explorer's Trail* will highlight aspects of the exhibition to bring history alive and provide your students with a look at daily life in a bustling Roman city.

As we expect higher than usual visitation to the Museum to view the *A Day in Pompeii* exhibition, it is essential that all teachers, students and adult helpers are familiar with exhibition rules and safety information before entering. Please refer to *A Day in Pompeii Excursion Essentials* for further information.

Please split your class/es into small groups of no more than ten students as we need to manage capacity for this exhibition. Each group should be allocated an adult leader.



Collect

Please collect on the day of your excursion:

- *A Day in Pompeii Junior Explorer's Trail* (for every student)

Related Museum Resources

Exhibition Information

For information on *A Day in Pompeii*, please visit the exhibition website at <http://www.museum.wa.gov.au/pompeii>

Planning your excursion to *A Day in Pompeii*

- *A Day in Pompeii Excursion Essentials*

- Excursion Management Plan

Available online www.museum.wa.gov.au/pompeii/education



Publications

- *A Day in Pompeii Exhibition Guide*

Available for purchase from the Western Australian Museum – Perth

Classroom Activities

From this list, please select some activities that are suitable for the age and ability of your students.

- **Reel Romans:** Watch parts of the movies set in the Roman Empire (e.g. *Gladiator* or *Ben Hur*) to introduce students to ancient Roman culture. Have them take note of clothing, technology, cityscapes and landscapes to build a picture of what life was like.
- **Latin lingo:** Explore the meanings of common Latin root words that are in common use today (eg *aqua* or *trans*). Have students create their own mini dictionary of words derived from Latin words and their meanings. See how many of their Latin words can be substituted in class throughout a day.
- **Timeline:** Create a timeline showing significant time periods and/or events in relation to the demise of Pompeii (for example modern events, the building of Egyptian pyramids, the discovery of Australia by Europeans etc).
- **Time capsule:** Pompeii was a 1700 year old time capsule when it was rediscovered, preserving life on a day in an ancient city. Have students create a class time capsule featuring aspects of modern life in such areas as trade and business, food, lifestyle, leisure, technology, medicine, and religion. They could include pictures, objects, drawings, or letters.
- **Booming business:** Investigate what businesses operated in Pompeii. What goods or services were sold? Have students each research a different type of business and report on what it provided, and who would have shopped there or used the service. Students can illustrate what the shop-front of the business would have looked like, and draw a plan of the premises inside. Examples include bakeries, laundries, restaurants, taverns, and various trades.
- **Amazing maze:** Get students to create a board-game based around the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. Create a maze from a city plan of Pompeii that players need to escape from. Include challenging questions, dilemmas and obstacles related to the historical event and see who gets out alive!
- **Bathtime!:** Have students research how Pompeian people bathed. Where did the water come from? What was a *strigil* and how was it used? How is it different to bathing today? How would they feel about bathing in public? What can this tell us about Roman society?
- **Roman recreation:** Have students research the role of Gladiators in ancient Roman society. Who were they and what purpose did they serve? What other recreational activities did Pompeians have? What evidence of this is there? Compare these with the leisure and recreational activities available in modern times.
- **Medical mysteries:** What happened if you were sick in Pompeii? Get students to research medicine and doctors in ancient Roman times, including treatment, procedures and what medicines were available. How does it compare to modern day medicine?

- **What's cooking?:** Research what food was available in Pompeian times. What was grown locally? What was imported and exported? Create a shopping list or a menu of what a Pompeian person might have eaten. Then have a Pompeian feast and make some food that Pompeian people might have eaten and bring it in to the classroom to share.
- **Roman real-estate:** Research the styles of accommodation associated within the different classes in Pompeii, and the typical features of each style. Make a 3D model to illustrate a typical Pompeian home and the furniture that may have been in it.
- **Art-efacts:** Research the artworks found in Pompeii including mosaics, frescoes, jewellery and sculptures. Students could recreate these artefacts using a variety of media including tiles, foil, cardboard, ceramics, pebbles and coloured paper.
- **Religious Romans:** The Pompeians worshipped many gods. Have students research different gods and present their findings to the class. Have them describe why and how they were worshipped, and by whom, in order to build up a picture of the complexity of ancient Roman religion.
- **Myths and legends:** Research some Roman myths and how they influenced Pompeian people's lives.
- **Frozen in time:** Have students consider the body casts of the people that died in Pompeii, and how they were formed. Why were those people still there, and why didn't they (or couldn't they) leave? What stories can the casts tell us about the last hours of Pompeii? How would the Pompeians normally have buried their dead?
- **A day in Pompeii:** After visiting the exhibition, discuss the events of the eruption of Mount Vesuvius and explore what the people may have experienced. Have students write a journal entry detailing aspects of their life for the day of the eruption (include their thoughts and feelings up to the early stages of the eruption).
- **Very volcanic:** Have students find out about volcanoes, and where they occur in the world and why they occur there. Investigate what towns or cities are near them, and discuss what precautions people could take to stay safe if they erupt. Find instructions on the web on how to 'make' a demonstration volcano, and then build one in class. Have students create a model of a town and watch what happens when their volcano erupts.
- **Natural disasters:** Have students compile a list of natural disasters that have impacted on human populations around the world; e.g. earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes and floods. Consider the impacts of these disasters, and how they have influenced future emergency planning around the world.
- **Astounding archaeology:** Research the role of archaeologists, and what skills, experience and tools they use to piece together the past. Create a mini archaeological dig by burying related objects in a sandpit. Have students excavate and map the 'site', and draw conclusions from what they have found and what stories the objects can tell.
- **Famous finds:** Have students research some of the major archaeological finds from around the world. What were some of the great discoveries?

A Day in Pompeii Student Exploration Trail

Collect on arrival

Please collect on the day of your excursion:

- *A Day in Pompeii Junior Explorer's trail* (for every student)



This trail is available for younger visitors to *A Day in Pompeii* with thanks to support from Lotterywest and the Friends of the Western Australian Museum.

How to use *A Day in Pompeii Junior Explorer's Trail*

In small groups, have students use the questions and items contained in the trail to lead them on a journey of discovery about the ancient city of Pompeii.

Adult helpers can help facilitate this process by guiding students to areas of interest. They could:

- Ask the students about the exhibits and artefacts
- Play games like 'Eye Spy'
- Encourage students to read the exhibit labels and information panels

Galleries

You will visit two galleries to complete this trail.



A Day in Pompeii 3D Theatre experience,
Hackett Hall, Foyer Basement



A Day in Pompeii,
Temporary Exhibition Gallery, Beaufort Street Wing

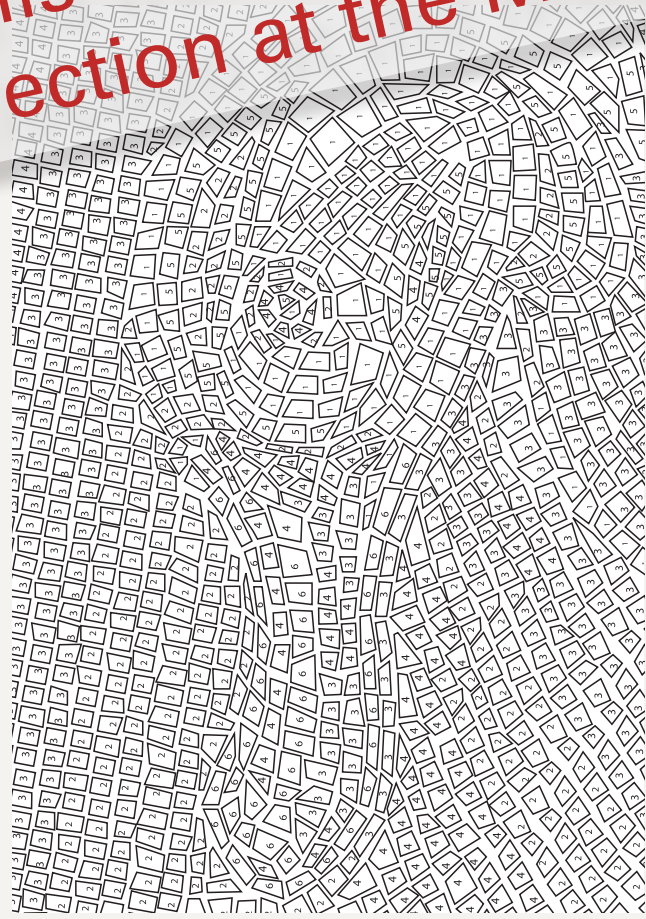
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Mosaics

Mosaics were widely used in the decoration of houses and other buildings in Pompeii, appearing on both walls and floors.

Can you find some examples of mosaics in the exhibition? What sorts of things do they show?



Each of these tesserae are numbered from 1-6. Choose a different colour (eg. 2 = blue) for each number and fill in each tile.

What picture do you see?

Did you know?

The individual tile pieces in a mosaic are called *tessera*.

This trail available for collection at the Museum

Explore ancient Pompeii and discover the way that the citizens lived from day to day. Locate the objects that have been recovered, and find out the amazing stories discovered!



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© Bill Wood

Gold Coins

Most Pompeians used bronze and silver coins for everyday business, and gold coins like these were usually kept as savings and investments. Gold coins (*aurei*) were usually kept hidden in a very safe place.

Can you find other ways that precious gold was used by the people of Pompeii?



Gold coins provided portable savings
© William Starling, Alabama, USA

Can you find me? Hint: Look both 'weighs'!



© William Starling, Alabama, USA

Did you know?

The city of Pompeii was buried after a volcano called Mount Vesuvius erupted in 79AD – that's almost 2,000 years ago!

Gladiator Shield

Gladiators fought in an amphitheatre for the entertainment of the people in Pompeii. They used lots of different armour and weapons to protect themselves in their battles against other gladiators and wild animals.



Gladiator's bronze and silver shield
© Alfredo and Pio Foglia

This trail available for collection at the Museum

Can you find me?

Hint: 'Head' this way!



© Alfredo and Pio Foglia

Did you know?

Besides watching gladiatorial combats, the people of Pompeii also enjoyed watching theatrical performances and going to public baths where they could get clean and also socialise with each other.

Carbonised Bread

Bread was a staple food for the people of Pompeii. This is a cast of an actual bread loaf that had been left in an oven during the eruption of Mount Vesuvius.

Why do you think this bread was left abandoned in the baker's oven?



Carbonised bread
© William Starling, Alabama, USA

■ Did you know?

Wealthy people dined in great style, and would sometimes eat spectacular dishes such as Trojan pig, stuffed with sausages and black pudding!

Can you find any evidence of other things that people ate and drank in Pompeii, or how their food was prepared?

Frescoes

Frescoes were painted on the walls of wealthy people's homes for decoration. Beautiful landscapes were sometimes painted on walls of smaller houses that didn't have a garden.

Can you find other ways that the people of Pompeii decorated their homes?



Garden fresco
© William Starling, Alabama, USA

This trail available for collection at the Museum

*Can you find me?
Hint: Take a seat!*



© William Starling, Alabama, USA

■ Did you know?

Pompeian houses were very different to those we live in today. All the living rooms of the house faced inwards to a courtyard, and instead of having a front garden, the front door opened directly onto the pavement.

Burial Urns

Burial of people was not allowed within the city walls of Pompeii, so burials lined the roads leading into the city. Before becoming a Roman colony Pompeians buried their dead, but by the time Mount Vesuvius erupted they preferred cremation. Ashes were placed in an urn which was placed in a tomb, niche, or simply buried in the ground.

Find the display of burial objects.

Why were these things important?

Did you know?

The Pompeians worshipped many different gods, and there were many temples dedicated to these gods and goddesses. Most houses also had a small shrine or *lararium*, where they could perform daily ceremonies and rituals.

Body Casts

When Mount Vesuvius erupted, many people and animals were unable to escape in time and died. Some of these victims have been preserved as body casts.

Can you find out how these body casts were made?

This unfortunate dog was left chained up and suffocated beneath the ash.

Can you see the remains of its bronze-studded collar?



Cast of a watch dog
© William Stirling, Alabama, USA

Did you know?

Archaeologists can learn a lot about ancient lives from studying body casts like these, ruins of buildings and other artefacts.

This trail available for collection at the Museum



Glass cremation urn
© Soprintendenza Speciale per i Beni Archeologici di Napoli e Pompei.