

GRADE 9

HISTORY

MT. VESUVIUS

A few short years after Titus captured Jerusalem, he became emperor of Rome in A.D. 79. That same year, Mt. Vesuvius erupted. Burying Herculaneum, Stabae, and Pompeii with hot volcanic ash and lava, it is thought to have killed around 30,000 people. Many people died instantly as the incredibly hot air filled the atmosphere, burning their lungs and shrinking their muscles. The bodies were covered in the volcanic ash, preserved until today for modern excavation.

The mountain erupted several times between then and its latest eruption in 1944. By this time, many were prepared for the emergency and immediately evacuated where possible. Although 12,000 people lost their homes due to the eruption, only 26 Italians actually died.

Besides frequent earthquakes, Mt. Vesuvius hasn't caused any major damage since then. Only time can tell when it will erupt again.