

Chapter 1 : Mt Vesuvius Eruption 79 AD | John Seach

Aug 24, Â· On August 24th of 79 CE, Mount Vesuvius began to erupt and to destroy thousands of people, animals, and plants. On this 1,th anniversary of the blast, check out the hour-by-hour timeline for.

Print this page The unexpected catastrophe It is certain that when the eruption of Vesuvius started on the morning of 24 August, AD 79, it caught the local population utterly unprepared. Although at the same time, as we now know in retrospect, all the tell-tale signs were there to warn them. And it is through him that we can gain insight into the reactions and feelings of the people caught up in the drama of this natural catastrophe. His uncle, known as Pliny the Elder, was stationed in command of the imperial naval base at Misenum, on the north-west extremity of the Bay of Naples. He was not only the senior military officer in the district, but possibly the most well informed living Roman on matters of natural science. His volume Natural History is the longest work on science in Latin that has survived from antiquity. But for all his science and his seniority, his nephew tells us that the elder Pliny was relaxing, after a bath and lunch, when Vesuvius started to erupt. He and his companions were evidently not anticipating such an event. The same account reveals, however, that the signs were there. Through measuring seismic activity, these scientists expect to predict an approaching eruption months in advance. They also know that the activity of Vesuvius is recurrent, and that the longer the intervals between one eruption and another, the greater the eventual explosion will be. The frequent but low-level activity of Vesuvius in recent centuries has relieved the build-up of pressure in the magma chamber. The catastrophic magnitude of the eruption of AD 79 was connected with the extended period of inactivity that preceded it. A long interval combined with mounting seismic activity is a sure sign of impending disaster. The long inactivity of the volcano naturally lulled the people of the region into a false sense of security, though they were aware of the signs of burning at the peak of the mountain. They were not the first to be so lulled: But of this the Romans knew nothing. Top Signs and portents The irony of this is that the Romans were extremely interested in predicting the future, and they had a range of ways to detect what they saw as the approaching wrath of the gods. Even in these terms, there were warnings of the eruption of Vesuvius. Earthquakes in themselves counted as portentous, and the historian Cassius Dio, writing over a century later, reports repeated sightings of giants roaming the land. This was a bad portent indeed, given that one standard explanation for the volcanoes of south Italy was that, when the gods defeated the rebellious giants and brought peace to the universe, they buried them beneath the mountains, and that it was their stirrings that caused the eruptions. But while the ancient imagination doubtless conjured up giants in plumes of gas from fumaroles vents from which volcanic gas escapes into the atmosphere , the earthquakes that Pliny described so casually were more than just portents. Current thinking, however, had not yet caught up with their significance. We know this because, by an extraordinary coincidence, the philosopher Seneca, advisor to the emperor Nero, wrote a discussion of the scientific causes of earthquakes only a few years before the eruption. Seneca writes that he regarded it as likely that earthquakes in different parts of the world were interconnected, and even that they were linked to stormy weather, but he draws no link with volcanic activity. Indeed, he goes so far as to reproach the landowners who were deserting Campania for fear of further earthquakes. Some areas seem to have been worse affected than others - there are cases where entire houses were demolished and reduced to agricultural land. Upper floors would have been particularly badly affected - and indeed some buildings do have blocked-up doors at the top, indicating that the higher floors had been abandoned. But more impressive than the signs of damage are the signs of the resilience of the local population. Damaged houses were being extensively repaired and redecorated at the time of the AD 79 eruption, and there was a comprehensive programme of restructuring of public buildings in the Forum of Pompeii. The evidence points to a continuous process of repairs and rebuilding from AD 63 onwards. It used to be assumed that the earthquake described by Seneca was the only cause of damage, and that signs of incomplete work suggested that it took the cities a long time to recover from the first catastrophe. But we now know from volcanological research that a series of seismic episodes immediately preceded the eruption, causing further damage to structures that had already been repaired. So, in the house of the Chaste Lovers at Pompeii, archaeologists discovered that the oven of a

bakery had suffered major cracking; it had been repaired and plastered over, but had then been damaged again - and building work was already in progress to mend this new damage. In the same block, three cesspits in the street, which linked to latrines in the houses, had been dug out immediately before the eruption, presumably to restore them to full functionality. Outside in the main street, an open trench was found, cutting the entire length of the walkway as far as a water-tower at the crossroads: A frequent sight in the excavated houses of Pompeii is that of heaps of plaster, which must have been brought in ready for new decoration. Sometimes even the pots and compasses of the decorators are in position. The Pompeians in August 79, far from abandoning their city, or fretting about earthquakes as portents of future destruction, were thus tenaciously repairing their city, and trying to carry on with life as usual. There was every reason to: Pliny depicts his uncle as a model of Stoic fortitude: But all around him is panic - Rectina in her villa, Pomponianus in his. The young Pliny too stays calm, but his mother weeps and implores, and by the time they set out to flee northwards, a dense black cloud of ash has blotted out the light, and the crowds of screaming people fleeing around them are in terror. The skeletons found in Pompeii and Herculaneum give us an equally eloquent testimony of panic and uncertainty. The eruption lasted for more than 24 hours. The eruption lasted for more than 24 hours from its start on the morning of 24 August. Those who fled at once, unburdened by possessions, had a chance of survival, for the rain of ash and pumice, mixed with lithics, that descended for several hours was not necessarily lethal. It is clear that many, like the elder Pliny, thought their best chance was to take shelter and weather the storm. It was not until around midnight that the first pyroclastic surges and flows occurred, caused by the progressive collapse of the eruptive column, and these meant certain death for the people of the region. The hundreds of refugees sheltering in the vaulted arcades at the seaside in Herculaneum, clutching their jewellery and money, met their end swiftly - from the intense heat of the first surge that reached the city. Subsequent waves reached Pompeii, asphyxiating those who had survived the fall of 3m 10ft of pumice, and were fleeing across the open in the dark, or hiding beneath roofs. The waves that followed smashed flat the upper floors of houses, and left the corpses encased in successive blankets of gaseous surge and pumice fall. It is impossible to tell what proportion of the inhabitants died, but the Romans were accustomed to losses mounting to tens of thousands in battle, and even they regarded this catastrophe as exceptional. The corpses found by archaeologists in Pompeii or Herculaneum should be regarded as only a small sample: As many died in the countryside or at sea as in the cities. Even as far north as Misenum, the ash lay deep in drifts. It was normal practice to rebuild the cities of this region after even the most massive earthquakes; but neither Herculaneum nor Pompeii was reoccupied. Instead, the site of Pompeii was riddled with tunnels by explorers, not by modern explorers as is often imagined, but by the Romans themselves after the eruption. The Bay of Naples The cities on the north of the Bay swiftly recovered, and Puteoli continued to be a significant commercial centre. The Bay of Naples continued to attract rich holidaymakers, but never again regained the massive levels of popularity of the two centuries before the disaster, the time when it had been the playground of many rich senators and emperors. It was not until the 18th century, when Naples flourished under the Bourbon kings, that the villas of the rich courtiers and ambassadors of that time brought a new flowering to the region. It was at this period that the aristocrats of Europe, as they progressed on their Grand Tours, made the Bay of Naples and its hidden Roman treasures a focus of international fascination.

Chapter 2 : BBC - History - Pompeii: Portents of Disaster

August 24, 79 AD in history. Browse historical events, important birthdays and notable deaths in history from Aug 24, 79 AD or search by date, day or keyword.

The Last Day of Pompeii. Painting by Karl Brullov , " The AD 79 eruption was preceded by a powerful earthquake seventeen years before on February 5, AD 62, which caused widespread destruction around the Bay of Naples , and particularly to Pompeii. The Romans grew accustomed to minor earth tremors in the region; the writer Pliny the Younger wrote that they "were not particularly alarming because they are frequent in Campania". Small earthquakes were felt for four days before the eruption, becoming more frequent , [4] but the warnings were not recognized. The eruption lasted for two days. He was not to have any opportunity, during the next two days, to talk to people who had witnessed the eruption from Pompeii or Herculaneum indeed he never mentions Pompeii in his letter , so he would not have noticed early, smaller fissures and releases of ash and smoke on the mountain, if such had occurred earlier in the morning. Rescues and escapes occurred during this time. At some time in the night or early the next day, pyroclastic flows in the close vicinity of the volcano began. Lights seen on the mountain were interpreted as fires. People as far away as Misenum fled for their lives. The flows were rapid-moving, dense, and very hot, knocking down wholly or partly all structures in their path, incinerating or suffocating all population remaining there and altering the landscape, including the coastline. These were accompanied by additional light tremors and a mild tsunami in the Bay of Naples. By evening of the second day, the eruption was over, leaving only haze in the atmosphere through which the sun shone weakly. Pliny the Younger wrote an account of the eruption: Broad sheets of flame were lighting up many parts of Vesuvius ; their light and brightness were the more vivid for the darkness of the night Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. August Learn how and when to remove this template message Pompeii and Herculaneum, as well as other cities affected by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. The black cloud represents the general distribution of ash, pumice and cinders. Modern coast lines are shown; Pliny the Younger was at Misenum. Two pyroclastic surges engulfed Pompeii, burning and asphyxiating any living beings who had remained behind. Herculaneum and Oplontis received the brunt of the surges and were buried in fine pyroclastic deposits, pulverized pumice and lava fragments. The eruption is viewed as primarily phreatomagmatic ; that is, the chief energy supporting the blast column came from the escape of steam generated by the magma, created from seawater seeping over time into the deep-seated faults of the region, that came into interaction with magma and heat. Subsequently, the cloud collapsed as the gases densified and lost their capability to support their solid contents, releasing it as a pyroclastic surge, which first reached Herculaneum, not Pompeii. Additional explosions reinstated the column. Surges 4 and 5 are believed by the authors to have destroyed and buried Pompeii. Final figures are considered to be those of the rocks in the current just before deposition. These materials may acquire a residual field from a number of sources. At the Curie temperature , the vibration of the molecules is sufficient to disrupt the alignment; the material loses its residual magnetism and assumes whatever magnetic field might be applied to it only for the duration of the application. The authors term this phenomenon unblocking. Residual magnetism is considered to "block out" non-residual fields. A rock is a mixture of minerals, each with its own Curie temperature; the authors therefore looked for a spectrum of temperatures rather than a single temperature. In the ideal sample, the PDC did not raise the temperature of the fragment beyond the highest blocking temperature. The temperature was raised above the lowest blocking temperature and therefore some minerals on recooling acquired the magnetism of the Earth as it was in AD The overall field of the sample was the vector sum of the fields of the high-blocking material and the low-blocking material. This type of sample made possible estimation of the low unblocking temperature. Considering the data for all the deposits of the surge arrived at a surge deposit estimate. The authors discovered that the city, Pompeii, was a relatively cool spot within a much hotter field, which they attributed to interaction of the surge with the "fabric" of the city. These two falls were the Plinian phase. The collapse of the edges of these clouds generated the first dilute PDCs, which must have been devastating to

Herculaneum, but did not enter Pompeii. Early in the morning of the second day the grey cloud began to collapse to a greater degree. Two major surges struck and destroyed Pompeii. Herculaneum and all its population no longer existed. Any population remaining in structural refuges could not have escaped, as the city was surrounded by gases of incinerating temperatures. The lowest temperatures were in rooms under collapsed roofs. In the second surge the irregularities were gone and the city was as hot as the surrounding environment. During the last surge, which was very dilute, one metre more of deposits fell over the region. His nephew declined to join the party. Pliny the Younger The two men saw an extraordinarily dense cloud rising rapidly above the mountain: These events and a request by messenger for an evacuation by sea prompted the elder Pliny to order rescue operations in which he sailed away to participate. His nephew attempted to resume a normal life, continuing to study, and bathing, but that night a tremor awoke him and his mother, prompting them to abandon the house for the courtyard. At another tremor near dawn the population abandoned the village. After still a third "the sea seemed to roll back upon itself, and to be driven from its banks", which is evidence for a tsunami. There is, however, no evidence of extensive damage from wave action. The early light was obscured by a black cloud through which shone flashes, which Pliny likens to sheet lightning, but more extensive. The cloud obscured Point Misenum near at hand and the island of Capraia Capri across the bay. Fearing for their lives the population began to call to each other and move back from the coast along the road. A rain of ash fell. Pliny found it necessary to shake off the ash periodically to avoid being buried. Later that same day the ash stopped falling and the sun shone weakly through the cloud, encouraging Pliny and his mother to return to their home and wait for news of Pliny the Elder. The letter compares the ash to a blanket of snow. Evidently the earthquake and tsunami damage at that location were not severe enough to prevent continued use of the home. Pliny the Elder[edit] Further information: As the ship was preparing to leave the area, a messenger came from his friend Rectina wife of Tascius living on the coast near the foot of the volcano, explaining that her party could only get away by sea and asking for rescue. Advised by the helmsman to turn back he stated "Fortune favors the brave" and ordered him to continue on to Stabiae about 4. After staying overnight, the party was driven from the building by an accumulation of material which threatened to block all egress. They elected to take to the fields with pillows tied to their heads to protect them from rockfall. They approached the beach again but the wind had not changed. Pliny sat down on a sail that had been spread for him and could not rise even with assistance when his friends departed, escaping ultimately by land. How the slave would have escaped to tell the tale remains a mystery. In the first letter to Tacitus his nephew suggested that his death was due to the reaction of his weak lungs to a cloud of poisonous, sulphurous gas that wafted over the group. His body was found with no apparent injuries on the next day, after dispersal of the plume. Casualties from the eruption[edit] The skeleton called the "Ring Lady" unearthed in Herculaneum Along with Pliny the Elder, the only other notable casualties of the eruption to be known by name were Agrippa a son of the Jewish princess Drusilla and the procurator Antonius Felix and his wife. Thirty-eight percent of the 1, were found in the ash fall deposits, the majority inside buildings. These are thought to have been killed mainly by roof collapses, with the smaller number of victims found outside buildings probably killed by falling roof slates or by larger rocks thrown out by the volcano. It was initially believed that due to the state of the bodies found at Pompeii and the outline of clothes on the bodies it was unlikely that high temperatures were a significant cause. Volcanologist Giuseppe Mastrolorenzo, who led the study, noted that " It was enough to kill hundreds of people in a fraction of a second". In reference as to why the bodies were frozen in suspended action, "The contorted postures are not the effects of a long agony, but of the cadaveric spasm, a consequence of heat shock on corpses. It is likely that most, or all, of the known victims in this town were killed by the surges, particularly given evidence of high temperatures found on the skeletons of the victims found in the arched vaults, and the existence of carbonised wood in many of the buildings. These people were all caught on the former seashore by the first surge and died of thermal shock but not of carbonization, although some were partly carbonized by later and hotter surges. The arched vaults were most likely boathouses, as the crossbeams in the overhead were probably for the suspension of boats. No boats have been found, indicating they may have been used for the earlier escape of some of the population. The rest were concentrated in the chambers at a density of as high as 3 persons per square meter. This date

came from a printed version of a letter between Pliny the Younger and the Roman historian Tacitus , itself written some 25 years after the event. Manuscript experts believe that the date originally given by Pliny was one of the following: August 24, October 30, November 1, or November . The large majority of extant medieval manuscript copies - there are no surviving Roman ones - indicate a date corresponding to August 24, and from the discovery of the cities into the 21st century this has been accepted by most scholars and by nearly all books written about Pompeii and Herculaneum for the general public. However in October , Italian archaeologists stated they had uncovered an inscription dated October 17, lending support to later date interpretations of the letter and apparently ruling out August . For example, Josephus in his Antiquities of the Jews mentions that the eruption occurred, "in the days of Titus Caesar. In the researcher Carlo Rosini reported that excavations at Pompeii and Herculaneum had uncovered traces of fruits and braziers indicative of the autumn, not the summer. More recently, in and , archaeologists discovered remnants of autumnal fruits such as the pomegranate , the remains of victims of the eruption in heavy clothing, and large earthenware storage vessels laden with wine at the time of their burial by Vesuvius. During June, July, and August, the prevailing winds flow to the westâ€”an arc between the southwest and northwestâ€”virtually percent of the time. As Emperor Titus of the Flavian dynasty reigning June 24 , 79 to September 13, 81 garnered victories on the battlefield including his capture of the Temple of Jerusalem , and other honors, his administration issued coins enumerating his ever-growing accolades. Given the limited space on each coin, his achievements were stamped on the coins using an arcane encoding. Abdy states that it is "remarkable that both coins will have taken just two months after minting to enter circulation and reach Pompeii before the disaster.

Chapter 3 : Vesuvius erupts - HISTORY

24th August AD Mount Vesuvius destroys Pompeii and Herculaneum. 24th August AD Mount Vesuvius destroys Pompeii and Herculaneum. Home (Main Index).

Menu Facts about Mount Vesuvius The eruption that buried Pompeii spewed out lava weighing the same as fully grown elephants per second. And there are other interesting facts about Mount Vesuvius. Up here in the national park on the edge of the gaping mouth of a huge crater, you sense the fumes and vapours disgorged from the pit. After all, Vesuvius has erupted many times and is regarded as one of the most dangerous volcanoes in the world. And even though I know, the danger is not due to the immediate risk of a sudden deadly explosion, but to the density of the population living in nearby Naples; it is still kind of scary. Not one, but two volcanoes What is commonly called Mount Vesuvius is in fact an amalgam of two mountains: Monte Somma and Vesuvius. The two peaks are easily distinguishable, as can be seen in the photo above. Classification Mount Vesuvius is a complex stratovolcano, built by layers of hardened lava, pumice, and volcanic ash. The crater is at the summit. It buried the Roman cities Pompeii and Herculaneum. Signs that an eruption were underway Before the eruption, the area had been hit by a series of earthquakes. The most devastating of these earthquakes took place in the year 62 AD. The first rain of ash and pumice was not necessarily lethal. People who fled immediately stood a chance of survival. But most tried to weather the storm and were caught by the pyroclastic flows. Death toll unknown The eruption released a hundred thousand times the thermal energy released by the Hiroshima bombing. The remains of 1 people have been found, but the exact number of casualties is unknown. Preserved for posterity The casts of hot ash and pumice covering the victims helped to preserve their clothes and faces. Like shooting out fully grown elephants each second and letting them fall through the air. Andesite lava creates explosive eruptions, which makes Vesuvius especially dangerous and unpredictable. Numerous eruptions Vesuvius has erupted many times since then. Tax exemption The eruptions of were so severe, that people living on the the fertile slopes of Vesuvius were granted tax exemption. Aircraft destroyed The last major eruption took place in March It lasted two weeks and destroyed almost 80 allied planes stationed at the Pompeii Airfield. The were no people among the casualties. Dormant but dangerous None of the later eruptions were as large or destructive as the Pompeian one, but Mt. In case of a new eruption Ongoing efforts are being made to reduce the number of people living within the red zone, where there is a high risk of pyroclastic flows. Depending on the direction of the wind, an eruption may affect the inhabitants of large cities such as Naples , Avellino and Salerno. In spite of this the only activity I saw during my walk along the summit rim was small clouds of dirt or steam forming at the bottom of the crater. More on hiking and outdoor adventures in Italy.

Chapter 4 : Eruption of Mount Vesuvius begins - HISTORY

24th August AD Mount Vesuvius destroys Pompeii and Herculaneum but the majority of scholars continue to favour the 24th August. This, by unnerving coincidence, was just one day after the.

On August 24, 79 Mount Vesuvius literally blew its top, spewing tons of molten ash, pumice and sulfuric gas miles into Vesuvius erupts, the atmosphere. A "firestorm" of poisonous vapors and molten debris engulfed the surrounding area suffocating the inhabitants of the neighboring Roman resort cities of Pompeii, Herculaneum and Stabiae. Tons of falling debris filled the streets until nothing remained to be seen of the once thriving communities. The cities remained buried and undiscovered for almost years until excavation began in These excavations continue today and provide insight into life during the Roman Empire. An ancient voice reaches out from the past to tell us of the disaster. This voice belongs to Pliny the Younger whose letters describe his experience during the eruption while he was staying in the home of his Uncle, Pliny the Elder. The elder Pliny was an official in the Roman Court, in charge of the fleet in the area of the Bay of Naples and a naturalist. Wrath of the Gods A few years after the event, Pliny wrote a friend, Cornelius Tacitus, describing the happenings of late August 79 AD when the eruption of Vesuvius obliterated Pompeii, killed his Uncle and almost destroyed his family. We pick up his story as he describes the warning raised by his mother: On 24 August, in the early afternoon, my mother drew his attention to a cloud of unusual size and appearance. He had been out in the sun, had taken a cold bath, and lunched while lying down, and was then working at his books. He called for his shoes and climbed up to a place which would give him the best view of the phenomenon. It was not clear at that distance from which mountain the cloud was rising it was afterwards known to be Vesuvius ; its general appearance can best be expressed as being like an umbrella pine, for it rose to a great height on a sort of trunk and then split off into branches, I imagine because it was thrust upwards by the first blast and then left unsupported as the pressure subsided, or else it was borne down by its own weight so that it spread out and gradually dispersed. In places it looked white, elsewhere blotched and dirty, according to the amount of soil and ashes it carried with it. I replied that I preferred to go on with my studies, and as it happened he had himself given me some writing to do. As he was leaving the house he was handed a message from Rectina, wife of Tascus whose house was at the foot of the mountain, so that escape was impossible except by boat. She was terrified by the danger threatening her and implored him to rescue her from her fate. He changed his plans, and what he had begun in a spirit of inquiry he completed as a hero. He gave orders for the warships to be launched and went on board himself with the intention of bringing help to many more people besides Rectina, for this lovely stretch of coast was thickly populated. He hurried to the place which everyone else was hastily leaving, steering his course straight for the danger zone. He was entirely fearless, describing each new movement and phase of the portent to be noted down exactly as he observed them. Ashes were already falling, hotter and thicker as the ships drew near, followed by bits of pumice and blackened stones, charred and cracked by the flames: For a moment my uncle wondered whether to turn back, but when the helmsman advised this he refused, telling him that Fortune stood by the courageous and they must make for Pomponianus at Stabiae. He was cut off there by the breadth of the bay for the shore gradually curves round a basin filled by the sea so that he was not as yet in danger, though it was clear that this would come nearer as it spread. Pomponianus had therefore already put his belongings on board ship, intending to escape if the contrary wind fell. He embraced his terrified friend, cheered and encouraged him, and thinking he could calm his fears by showing his own composure, gave orders that he was to be carried to the bathroom. After his bath he lay down and dined; he was quite cheerful, or at any rate he pretended he was, which was no less courageous. Vesuvius from space Meanwhile on Mount Vesuvius broad sheets of fire and leaping flames blazed at several points, their bright glare emphasized by the darkness of night. My uncle tried to allay the fears of his companions by repeatedly declaring that these were nothing but bonfires left by the peasants in their terror, or else empty houses on fire in the districts they had abandoned. Then he went to rest and certainly slept, for as he was a stout man his breathing was rather loud and heavy and could be heard by people coming and going outside his door. By this time the courtyard giving access to his room was full of ashes mixed with

pumice stones, so that its level had risen, and if he had stayed in the room any longer he would never have got out. He was wakened, came out and joined Pomponianus and the rest of the household who had sat up all night. They debated whether to stay indoors or take their chance in the open, for the buildings were now shaking with violent shocks, and seemed to be swaying to and fro as if they were torn from their foundations. Outside, on the other hand, there was the danger of falling pumice stones, even though these were light and porous; however, after comparing the risks they chose the latter. As a protection against falling objects they put pillows on their heads tied down with cloths. Elsewhere there was daylight by this time, but they were still in darkness, blacker and denser than any ordinary night, which they relieved by lighting torches and various kinds of lamp. My uncle decided to go down to the shore and investigate on the spot the possibility of any escape by sea, but he found the waves still wild and dangerous. A sheet was spread on the ground for him to lie down, and he repeatedly asked for cold water to drink. Then the flames and smell of sulphur which gave warning of the approaching fire drove the others to take flight and roused him to stand up. He stood leaning on two slaves and then suddenly collapsed, I imagine because the dense, fumes choked his breathing by blocking his windpipe which was constitutionally weak and narrow and often inflamed. When daylight returned on the 26th - two days after the last day he had been seen - his body was found intact and uninjured, still fully clothed and looking more like sleep than death. Shrieks of the People In a second letter to Tacitus, Pliny describes what happened to him and to his mother during the second day of the disaster: Portrait of a young girl. From a mural on the wall of a Pompeii home. Ashes were already falling, not as yet very thickly. You could hear the shrieks of women, the wailing of infants, and the shouting of men; some were calling their parents, others their children or their wives, trying to recognize them by their voices. People bewailed their own fate or that of their relatives, and there were some who prayed for death in their terror of dying. Many besought the aid of the gods, but still more imagined there were no gods left, and that the universe was plunged into eternal darkness for evermore. There were people, too, who added to the real perils by inventing fictitious dangers: A gleam of light returned, but we took this to be a warning of the approaching flames rather than daylight. However, the flames remained some distance off; then darkness came on once more and ashes began to fall again, this time in heavy showers. We rose from time to time and shook them off, otherwise we should have been buried and crushed beneath their weight. I could boast that not a groan or cry of fear escaped me in these perils, but I admit that I derived some poor consolation in my mortal lot from the belief that the whole world was dying with me and I with it. How To Cite This Article: At the time of its destruction, Pompeii is estimated to have had a population of 20, Pliny became a lawyer at age 19 and did quite well. He owned a number of villas in Northern Italy and Rome. Pliny became a confidant of the Emperor Trajan and was made Governor of Bithynia in what is now Turkey. Pliny died there in at the age of 52 or

Chapter 5 : I Traffic and Road Conditions

-So 24th of August is an important day, years ago Mount Vesuvius erupted and wiped many roman towns out of map. If you ever listened Pompeii by Bastille and paid attention to the lyrics.

Visit Website A westerly wind protected Herculaneum from the initial stage of the eruption, but then a giant cloud of hot ash and gas surged down the western flank of Vesuvius, engulfing the city and burning or asphyxiating all who remained. This lethal cloud was followed by a flood of volcanic mud and rock, burying the city. The people who remained in Pompeii were killed on the morning of August 25 when a cloud of toxic gas poured into the city, suffocating all that remained. A flow of rock and ash followed, collapsing roofs and walls and burying the dead. Much of what we know about the eruption comes from an account by Pliny the Younger, who was staying west along the Bay of Naples when Vesuvius exploded. Some bewailed their own fate. Others prayed to die. His uncle, Pliny the Elder, was less lucky. Pliny the Elder, a celebrated naturalist, at the time of the eruption was the commander of the Roman fleet in the Bay of Naples. After Vesuvius exploded, he took his boats across the bay to Stabiae, to investigate the eruption and reassure terrified citizens. After going ashore, he was overcome by toxic gas and died. Pompeii was buried under 14 to 17 feet of ash and pumice, and the nearby seacoast was drastically changed. Herculaneum was buried under more than 60 feet of mud and volcanic material. Some residents of Pompeii later returned to dig out their destroyed homes and salvage their valuables, but many treasures were left and then forgotten. In the 18th century, a well digger unearthed a marble statue on the site of Herculaneum. The local government excavated some other valuable art objects, but the project was abandoned. In 1763, a farmer found traces of Pompeii beneath his vineyard. Since then, excavations have gone on nearly without interruption until the present. In 1808, the Italian government resumed the excavation of Herculaneum, retrieving numerous art treasures, including bronze and marble statues and paintings. The remains of 2, men, women, and children were found at Pompeii. After perishing from asphyxiation, their bodies were covered with ash that hardened and preserved the outline of their bodies. Later, their bodies decomposed to skeletal remains, leaving a kind of plaster mold behind. Archaeologists who found these molds filled the hollows with plaster, revealing in grim detail the death pose of the victims of Vesuvius. The rest of the city is likewise frozen in time, and ordinary objects that tell the story of everyday life in Pompeii are as valuable to archaeologists as the great unearthed statues and frescoes. It was not until that the first human remains were found at Herculaneum, and these hundreds of skeletons bear ghastly burn marks that testifies to horrifying deaths. Today, Mount Vesuvius is the only active volcano on the European mainland. Its last eruption was in 1944 and its last major eruption was in 1929.

Chapter 6 : Eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 - Wikipedia

August 24, 79 AD How Conquistadors Conquered an Empire of 10 Million How did a mere Spanish conquistadors capture the Incan Emperor-god Atahualpa, execute him and conquer an entire empire?

Plinio praefecto equitum, "Pliny prefect of cavalry". The figure is the bust of the emperor. Pliny was the son of an equestrian, Gaius Plinius Celer, and his wife, Marcella. Neither the younger nor the elder Pliny mention the names. Their ultimate source is a fragmentary inscription CIL V 1 found in a field in Verona and recorded by the 16th-century Augustinian monk Onofrio Panvinio at Verona. The form is an elegy. It should say "Plinius Secundus augur ordered this to be made as a testament to his father [Ce]ler and his mother [Grania] Marcella" The actual words are fragmentary. The reading of the inscription depends on the reconstruction, [5] but in all cases the names come through. Whether he was an augur and whether she was named Grania Marcella are less certain. He kept statues of his ancestors there. Pliny the Elder was born at Como, not at Verona: He had a sister, Plinia, who married into the Caecilii and was the mother of his nephew, Pliny the Younger, whose letters describe his work and study regimen in detail. This shows that Pliny the Younger wanted it to be conveyed that Pliny the Elder was a "good Roman", which means that he maintained the customs of the great Roman forefathers. This statement would have pleased Tacitus. Two inscriptions identifying the hometown of Pliny the Younger as Como take precedence over the Verona theory. Therefore, Plinia likely was a local girl and Pliny the Elder, her brother, was from Como. As his adopted son took the same cognomen, Pliny founded a branch, the Plinii Secundi. No earlier instances of the Plinii are known. He imported a population of 4, from other provinces not clear from where to be placed in Comasco and aristocratic Greeks to found Novum Comum itself. The population prided themselves on being Roman citizens. Pliny the Elder did not marry and had no children. In his will, he adopted his nephew, which entitled the latter to inherit the entire estate. The adoption is called a "testamentary adoption" by writers on the topic, who assert that it applied to the name change only, but Roman jurisprudence recognizes no such category. Junior officer[edit] Pliny the Elder, as imagined by a 19th-century artist: No contemporary depiction of Pliny is known to survive. In AD 46, at about age 23, Pliny entered the army as a junior officer, as was the custom for young men of equestrian rank. Ronald Syme, Plinian scholar, reconstructs three periods at three ranks. Later, these friendships assisted his entry into the upper echelons of the state; however, he was trusted for his knowledge and ability, as well. According to Syme, he began as a praefectus cohortis, a "commander of a cohort" an infantry cohort, as junior officers began in the infantry, under Gnaeus Domitius Corbulo, himself a writer whose works did not survive in Germania Inferior. In AD 47, he took part in the Roman conquest of the Chauci and the construction of the canal between the rivers Maas and Rhine. The proximity of a naval base there means that he trained also in ships, as the Romans customarily trained all soldiers in all arms whenever possible. The location is on the lower Rhine River. At some uncertain date, Pliny was transferred to the command of Germania Superior under Publius Pomponius Secundus with a promotion to military tribune, [15] which was a staff position, with duties assigned by the district commander. Pomponius was a half-brother of Corbulo. Associated with the commander in the praetorium, he became a familiar and close friend of Pomponius, who also was a man of letters. At another uncertain date, Pliny was transferred back to Germania Inferior. Corbulo had moved on, assuming command in the east. This time, Pliny was promoted to praefectus alae, "commander of a wing", responsible for a cavalry battalion of about men. A decorative phalera, or piece of harness, with his name on it has been found at Castra Vetera, modern Xanten, then a large Roman army and naval base on the lower Rhine. Colossal head of Titus, son of Vespasian. Glyptothek, Munich Literary interlude[edit] At the earliest time Pliny could have left the service, Nero, the last of the Julio-Claudian Dynasty, had been emperor for two years. He did not leave office until AD 68, when Pliny was 45 years old. During that time, Pliny did not hold any high office or work in the service of the state. In the subsequent Flavian Dynasty, his services were in such demand that he had to give up his law practice, which suggests that he had been trying not to attract the attention of Nero, who was a dangerous acquaintance. Under Nero, Pliny lived mainly in Rome. He mentions the map of Armenia and the neighbourhood of the Caspian Sea,

which was sent to Rome by the staff of Corbulo in His second published work was a biography of his old commander, Pomponius Secundus, in two books. After this peak, he disappears from history, never to be mentioned again, except by the Plinies, and is not among either the friends or the enemies of Nero. The elder Pliny mentions that he saw "in the possession of Pomponius Secundus, the poet, a very illustrious citizen", manuscripts in the "ancient handwriting of Tiberius and Caius Gracchus". In 54, Nero came to power; at that time, Pliny was working on his two military writings. Pliny the Younger says that the biography of Pomponius was "a duty which he owed to the memory of his friend", implying that Pomponius had died. The circumstances of this duty and whether or not it had anything to do with his probable avoidance of Nero have disappeared with the work. It disappeared in favor of the writings of Tacitus which are far shorter, and, early in the fifth century, Symmachus had little hope of finding a copy. Pliny devoted much of his time to writing on the comparatively safe subjects of grammar and rhetoric. Pliny the Younger says of it: These are both now lost works. Bust of Vespasian, Pushkin Museum, Moscow At the end of AD 69, after a year of civil war consequent on the death of Nero, Vespasian, a successful general, became emperor. Like Pliny, he had come from the equestrian class, rising through the ranks of the army and public offices and defeating the other contenders for the highest office. His main tasks were to re-establish peace under imperial control and to place the economy on a sound footing. He needed in his administration all the loyalty and assistance he could find. The empire was perpetually short of, and was always seeking, office holders for its numerous offices. Ante lucem ibat ad Vespasianum imperatorem nam ille quoque noctibus utebatur, deinde ad officium sibi delegatum "Before dawn he was going to the Emperor Vespasian for he also made use of the night, then he did the other duties assigned to him". In this passage, Pliny the Younger conveys to Tacitus that his uncle was ever the academic, always working. The word *ibat* imperfect, "he used to go" gives a sense of repeated or customary action. He notes that Pliny "was indeed a very ready sleeper, sometimes dropping off in the middle of his studies and then waking up again. He seems to have a "familiarity with the provincia", which, however, might otherwise be explained. The procuratorship of Hispania Tarraconensis was next. A statement by Pliny the Younger that his uncle was offered, sesterces for his manuscripts by Larcus Licinius while he Pliny the Elder was procurator of Hispania makes it the most certain of the three. He stops short of mentioning them all for fear of "wearying the reader". The capital of the province was Augusta Treverorum Trier, named for the Treveri surrounding it. Pliny says that in "the year but one before this" a severe winter killed the first crops planted by the Treviri; they sowed again in March and had "a most abundant harvest. Using 77 as the date of composition Syme [41] arrives at AD as the date of the procuratorship, when Pliny is presumed to have witnessed these events. Pliny was allowed home Rome at some time in AD 75" He was presumably at home for the first official release of Natural History in No actual post is discernible for this period. On the bare circumstances, he was an official agent of the emperor in a quasiprivate capacity. Perhaps he was between posts. In any case, his appointment as prefect of the fleet at Misenum took him there, where he resided with his sister and nephew. Vespasian died of disease on June 23, Pliny outlived him by two months. It was to some degree reinstated and later cancelled by his son Titus when Vespasian suppressed the philosophers at Rome, but not Pliny, who was not among them, representing, as he says, something new in Rome, an encyclopedist certainly, a venerable tradition outside Italy. In his next work, he "completed the history which Aufidius Bassus left unfinished, and He had begun his history with some unknown date, certainly before the death of Cicero, [44] so probably the Civil Wars or the death of Julius Caesar, ending with the reign of Tiberius. He is mentioned concerning the loyalty of Burrus, commander of the Praetorian Guard, whom Nero removed for disloyalty. Pliny seems to have known it was going to be controversial, as he deliberately reserved it for publication after his death: By this means I confer an obligation on those who occupy the same ground with myself; and also on posterity, who, I am aware, will contend with me, as I have done with my predecessors. His sources were personal experience, his own prior works such as the work on Germany, and extracts from other works. These extracts were collected in the following manner: One servant would read aloud, and another would write the extract as dictated by Pliny. He is said to have dictated extracts while taking a bath. In winter, he furnished the copier with gloves and long sleeves so his writing hand would not stiffen with cold Pliny the Younger in *avunculus meus*. His extract collection finally reached about volumes,

which Larcius Licinius, the Praetorian legate of Hispania Tarraconensis, vainly offered to purchase for , sesterces. Pliny bequeathed the extracts to his nephew. When composition of the Natural History began is unknown. Since he was preoccupied with his other works under Nero and then had to finish the history of his times, he is unlikely to have begun before The procuratorships offered the ideal opportunity for an encyclopedic frame of mind. The date of an overall composition cannot be assigned to any one year. The dates of different parts must be determined, if they can, by philological analysis the post mortem of the scholars. Laocoon and his Sons , a sculpture admired by Pliny The closest known event to a single publication date, that is, when the manuscript was probably released to the public for borrowing and copying, and was probably sent to the Flavians, is the date of the Dedication in the first of the 37 books.

Chapter 7 : Walgreens Weekly Ad Snacks Aug 19 - 25,

At noon on August 24, 79 A.D., this pleasure and prosperity came to an end when the peak of Mount Vesuvius exploded, propelling a mile mushroom cloud of ash and pumice into the stratosphere.

Chapter 8 : 20 Facts about Mount Vesuvius - Italian Notes

Let me add to the confusion lol. I heard it was a Wednesday when Mt. Vesuvius erupted and destroyed Pompeii. Perhaps ask in the history section of yahoo answers.

Chapter 9 : The Time - Converting AM/PM to 24 Hour Clock

It was shortly after noon on August 24th in the year 79 A.D. and Mount Vesuvius sent a tall cloud of steam and ash high up into the atmosphere. The ancient Roman town of Pompeii near modern day Naples was soon covered in complete darkness and the thickness of the falling debris increased b.