

Mount Vesuvius



Where Is Mount Vesuvius?

Mount Vesuvius is an active volcano in southern Italy. Mount Vesuvius is one of many volcanoes that form the Campanian volcanic arc.



The height of Vesuvius has changed over the years but in 2013 it was about 1281 metres tall. Its crater measures about 600 metres across and is approximately 300 metres deep.

How High Is Mount Vesuvius?

What Is the Area like around Mount Vesuvius?

More than 2 million people live around the volcano. There are several farming villages on its lower slopes as the land is fertile and good for growing crops.

Glossary



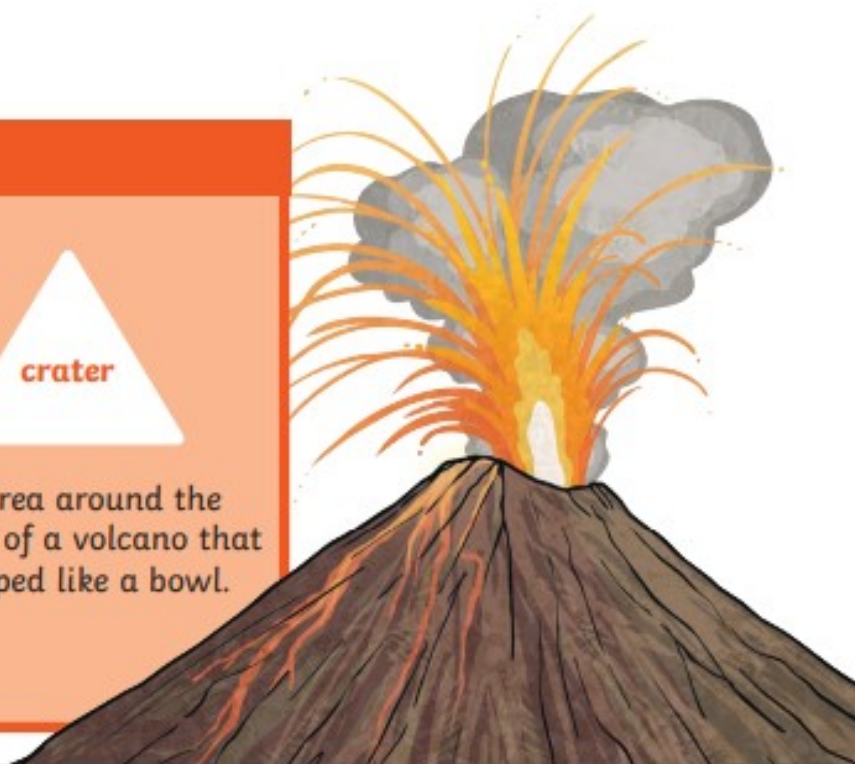
active volcano

A volcano that has had at least one eruption during the past 10,000 years.



crater

The area around the opening of a volcano that is shaped like a bowl.



How Many Times Has Vesuvius Erupted?

Vesuvius erupted in 1631, killing around 3000 people. Since then, Vesuvius has erupted at least twenty times. The last big eruption happened during the Second World War in 1944. This eruption caused severe damage to a US Air Force base. Over 12,000 people lost their homes and sadly, 26 people died.



After not erupting for hundreds of years, there was a huge eruption of Mount Vesuvius in AD 79, which destroyed the Roman city of Pompeii. Later, when the city was excavated by archaeologists, the city was found to have been extremely well preserved. Impressions of bodies buried in the ash have been made into casts. This has given us an amazing insight into life at the time of the eruption. You can still visit Pompeii today.

Why Is Mount Vesuvius So Famous?

Did You Know...?

A man named Pliny the Younger famously wrote about the eruption of Vesuvius in AD 79, in two letters to his historian friend Tacitus. The type of eruption that he described has since been named a Plinian eruption after him.



Mount Vesuvius is a stratovolcano. This is the name given to a volcano built up of layers of lava and ash. Stratovolcanoes have a tall, conical shape. They are very dangerous because they are very explosive and produce toxic gas.

