



A BFI Education  
Essentials Resource

## **Practical Animation Workshop**

### **Volcanoes and Earthquakes:**

#### **The story of Pompeii**

**Age: 7+**

Welcome to our online resources designed to help teachers, parents and home-educators create animations with your pupils/children. You can either watch our online tutorial on how to animate and create your own narrative or choose one of our briefs, carefully selected to complement the KS2 curriculum.

Creating an animation is a great way to begin a new curriculum topic, recap prior learning or embed a concept. Through storytelling, craft and creativity, pupils are encouraged to use their imagination to develop the information that they have been taught within the topic.

This resource is designed as a starting point for pupils to make their own animation, based in the topic they are studying. Remember that it is great to try out new techniques, make mistakes and learn from them!

**Overall, the aim is to be creative and have fun!**

### Before you start you will need:

- Pencil
- Colouring pencils or markers. If you want to be more adventurous you can use paints.
- Paper (if possible use selection of different cards, tissue paper, sugar paper in various colours)
- Scissors
- Blu tack
- Glue
- Storyboard (included below) or script
- Phone or iPad/tablet with a stop-motion software. We recommend Stop Motion Studio by CATEATER LCC which is available for free in the App Store
- Tripod or something you can support your iPad/tablet/phone with e.g. pile of books or a bedside/coffee table

Start by reading the brief below and discuss the subject with your pupils/children before you move on to our online tutorial on how to animate.

You can also watch the timeline of what happened when Vesuvius erupted created by Zero One Studio: <http://zeroonestudio.com/pompeii/>

At the end of this brief we have prepared few questions that you can use to check the knowledge of your pupils.

Pupils will be re-telling and animating the story of the eruption of Mount Vesuvius.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> August 79 A.D. the earth in the south east region of Italy rumbled, shaken by an earthquake. Several hours later Mount Vesuvius erupted. Immediately after eruption a thick, black cloud of ash and dust rocketed more than 14 km into the sky. The cloud was so thick and dense that it blocked the sun. Even though it was daytime, this region of Italy was covered in darkness.



After a while, considerable amounts of pumice and ash started to fall down on the city of Pompeii and the nearby city of Herculaneum. Some people decided to run away, others were hiding in their houses, unaware of the danger to come. Following the overnight ordeal ash and pumice stopped falling down and the sky lit up. Some people returned to Pompeii, believing the worst was over. However around 6 a.m. on the 25<sup>th</sup> August 79 A.D. parts of Vesuvius collapsed, creating a speeding (350 km/h) wave of hot (500C) gas and ash, which destroyed everything in its path. This hot wave covered and at the same time preserved the city of Pompeii. It's estimated that around 15000 people died as a result of this eruption.

How is it possible that we know so much about an explosion which happened so long ago? It's partly thanks to the letters of an eye witness Pliny the Younger. Pliny the Younger wrote a letter about the brave attempt of his uncle Pliny the Elder, to rescue some of the Pompeii citizens, an attempt in which he lost his life.

In his letter Pliny wrote:

*"My uncle was stationed at Misenum, in active command of the fleet. On 24 August, in the early afternoon, my mother drew his attention to a cloud of unusual size and appearance."*

*"It was not clear at that distance from which mountain the cloud was rising; 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."*

“Ashes were already falling, not as yet very thickly. I looked round: a dense black cloud was coming up behind us, spreading over the earth like a flood.”<sup>1</sup>

Archaeologists who re-discovered Pompeii nearly 2000 years after the explosion, were amazed in how well it was preserved. However Pliny's letters played a significant role for archaeologists and historians in recreating what happened in Pompeii and nearby cities.

Some of the elements you might consider using in your animation:

1. Mount Vesuvius



## 2. Eruption of Mount Vesuvius



3

## 3. People in Pompeii and nearby cities escaping from danger



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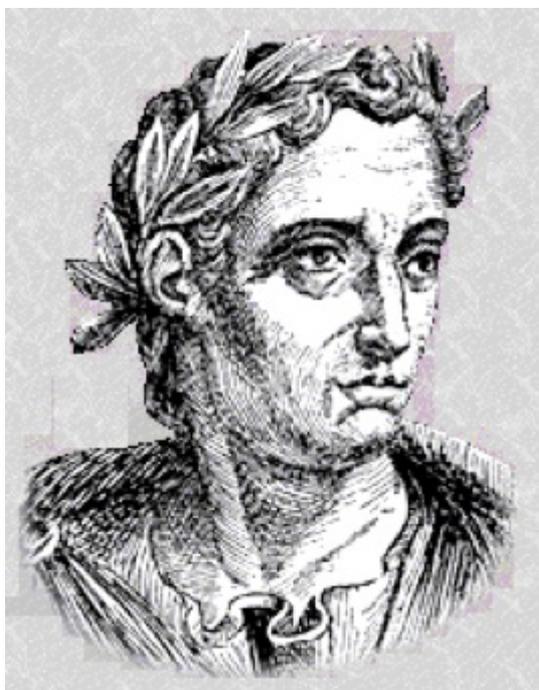
#### 4. Ancient City of Pompeii



#### 5. "Garden of the Fugitives"



6. Pliny the Younger



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7. Pliny the Elder



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Here are some questions to check how much pupils remembered from the story:

- Can you remember the year in which Vesuvius erupted? For an extra challenge, try to remember the exact date.
- What were the names of the two Italian cities affected by the eruption?
- What was falling down from sky, covering the grounds of these cities?
- Why didn't some people run away or decided to go back to Pompeii?
- Do you remember what caused the main destruction in Pompeii and nearby cities?
- How many people died due to the eruption?
- What's the name of an eye witness whose letters helped archaeologists and historians recreating this part of history?

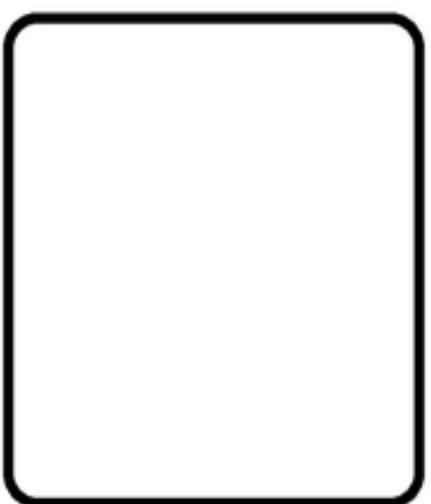
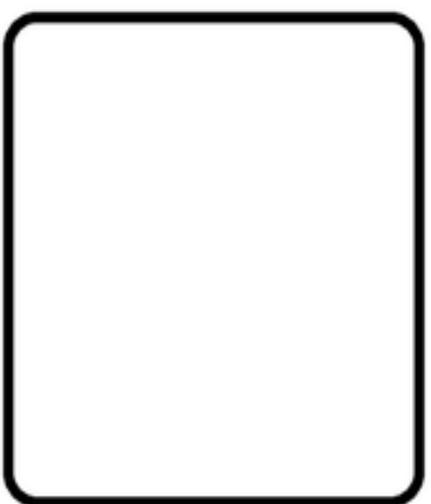
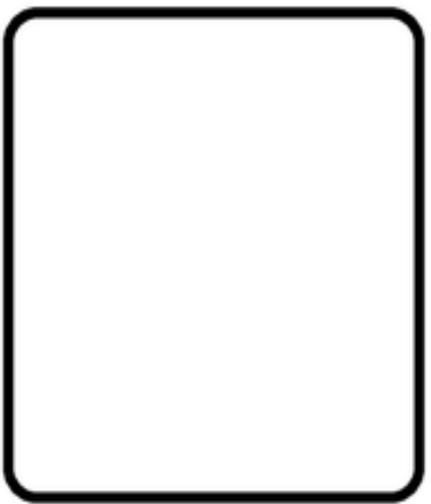
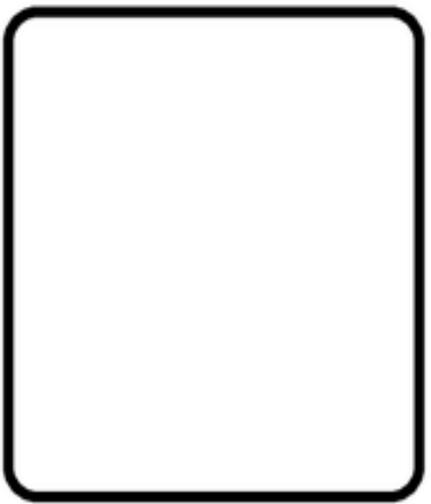
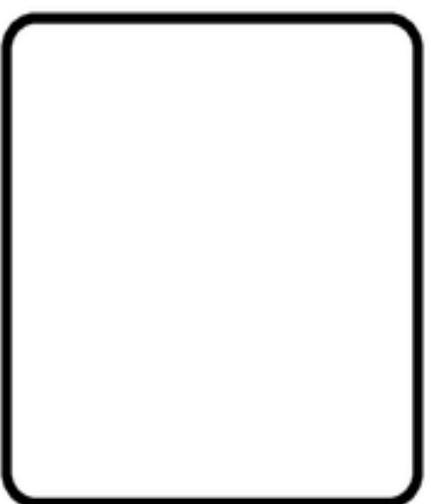
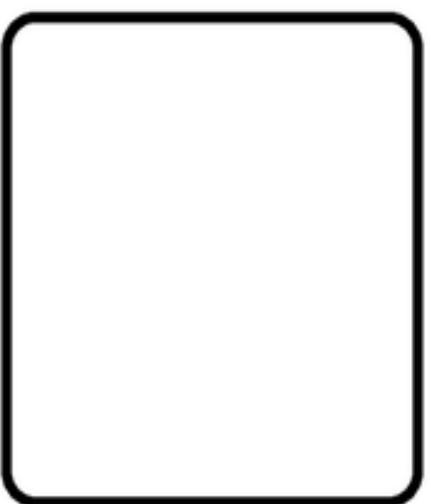
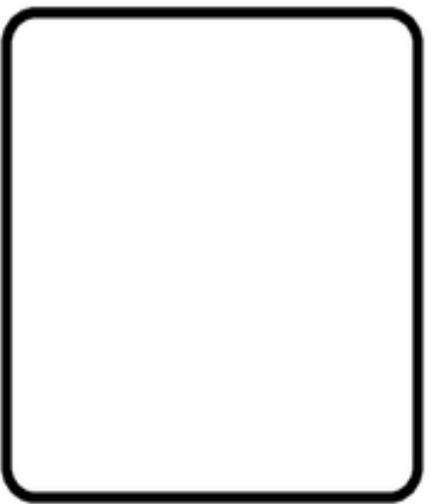
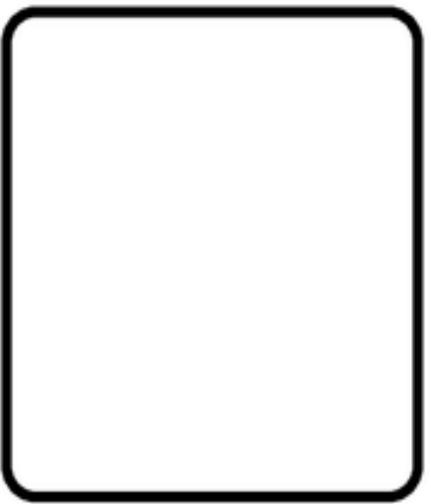
In your animation, think about how you can create the eruption. You could create it accurately, thinking about the speed that lava and the hot gas and ash would move down the mountain, or you could be more creative and move into science fiction!

Now you have familiarised yourself with the brief you can use the storyboard below which will help you visualise your narrative before moving onto make your animation.

Title:

Date:

Author:



- <sup>1</sup> <http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/pompeii.htm>
- <sup>2</sup> <https://volcanoassignment.weebly.com/eruption.html>
- <sup>3</sup> <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/vesuvius-erupts>
- <sup>4</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eruption\\_of\\_Mount\\_Vesuvius\\_in\\_79\\_AD](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eruption_of_Mount_Vesuvius_in_79_AD)
- <sup>5</sup> <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/82472236900879952/>
- <sup>6</sup> <https://www.triphobo.com/places/pompei-italy/garden-of-the-fugitives>
- <sup>7</sup> [http://www.pompeiin.com/en/Pliny\\_the\\_Younger.html](http://www.pompeiin.com/en/Pliny_the_Younger.html)
- <sup>8</sup> <https://www.thefamouspeople.com/profiles/pliny-the-elder-31965.php>

