

**Editor**

Sara Connolly

**Illustrator**

Kevin McCarthy

**Cover Artist**

Brenda DiAntonis

**Managing Editor**

Ina Massler Levin, M.A.

**Creative Director**

Karen J. Goldfluss, M.S. Ed.

**Art Production Manager**

Kevin Barnes

**Art Coordinator**

Renée Christine Yates

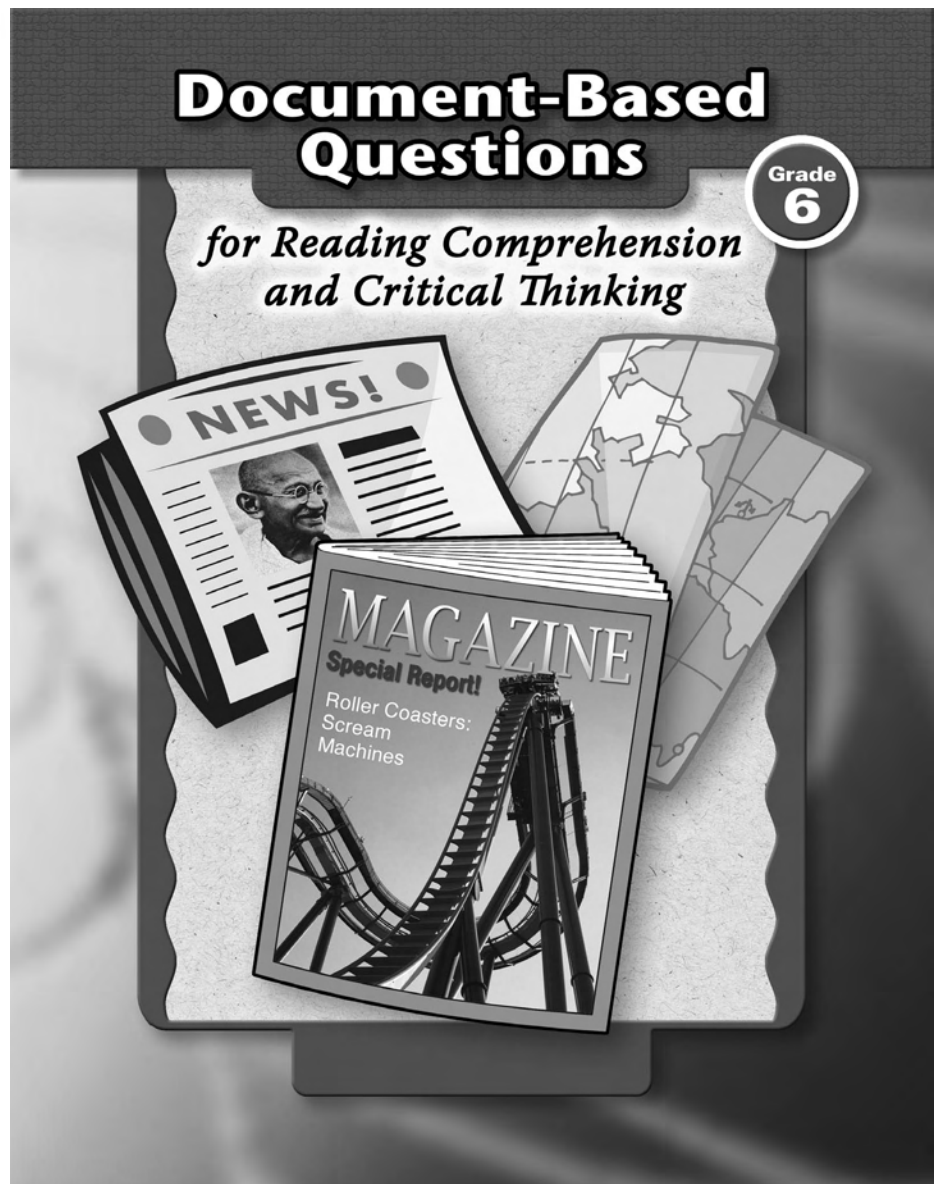
**Imaging**

Nathan Rivera

Rosa C. See

**Publisher**

Mary D. Smith, M.S. Ed.



**Author**

Debra J. Housel, M.S. Ed.

The classroom teacher may reproduce copies of materials in this book for classroom use only. Reproduction of any part for an entire school or school system is strictly prohibited. No part of this publication may be transmitted, stored, or recorded in any form without written permission from the publisher.

**Teacher Created Resources, Inc.**

6421 Industry Way  
Westminster, CA 92683  
www.teachercreated.com

**ISBN: 978-1-4206-8376-9**

© 2007 Teacher Created Resources, Inc.

Made in U.S.A.



**Teacher Created Resources**



# Table of Contents

## Introduction

About this Book . . . . .	3
Applying Bloom’s Taxonomy . . . . .	4
Practice Suggestions . . . . .	7
Standardized Test Success . . . . .	8
Standards and Benchmarks . . . . .	9

## Incredible Disasters

Without Warning: The Destruction of Pompeii . . . . .	10
The Black Death . . . . .	13
Look Out Below! Here Comes the Snow . . . . .	16
Horror in Halifax . . . . .	19
The <i>Hindenberg</i> Tragedy . . . . .	22
Space Shuttle Disasters . . . . .	25
Waves that Shook the Planet: The 2004 Tsunami . . . . .	28

## Important Firsts

Prison Reform at Eastern State Penitentiary . . . . .	31
Civil War Battleship Crews: The First Integrated U.S. Armed Forces . . . . .	34
The Birth of Radio: The “Wireless” . . . . .	37
Henry Ford’s Assembly Line . . . . .	40
Charles Lindbergh and the First Transatlantic Flight . . . . .	43
A Giant Leap for Mankind . . . . .	46

## Did You Know?

Executed for Espionage . . . . .	49
Mascots in the Military . . . . .	52
Destroying Ecosystems . . . . .	55
The U.S. Coast Guard . . . . .	58
The Man Who Slept Through His Own Presidency . . . . .	61
Scream Machines: The History of Roller Coasters . . . . .	64

## People Who Made a Difference

Dorothea Dix, Champion for the Mentally Ill . . . . .	67
Thomas Edison, the Wizard of Menlo Park . . . . .	70
Mohandas Gandhi: A Man of Peaceful Action . . . . .	73
Amazing Courage: Irena Sendler’s Silence . . . . .	76
Thurgood Marshall, Supreme Court Justice . . . . .	79
Mother Teresa: Greatest Humanitarian of the Twentieth Century . . . . .	82

## Interesting Places

At a Crossroads and in the Crosshairs: Afghanistan . . . . .	85
Antarctica: A Hidden Land . . . . .	88
The Land Down Under: Australia . . . . .	91
Bulgaria: A Balkan Nation . . . . .	94
The Cradle of Civilization: Iraq . . . . .	97
Jamaica, Jewel in the Caribbean Sea . . . . .	100
Swaziland, Land of a Single Culture . . . . .	103

<b>Answer Key</b> . . . . .	106
-----------------------------	-----



# Without Warning: The Destruction of Pompeii

Pompeii was a bustling city in Ancient Rome. It was located near what is now Naples, Italy. The city lay at the foot of Mount Vesuvius, the only active volcano on Europe's mainland. But the people did not realize that it was a volcano.

Before a volcano erupts, it usually rumbles and smokes, sometimes for months. But when Mount Vesuvius erupted in 79 C.E., it did so without warning. The only clue was the strange behavior of the animals. Just minutes before it happened, dogs fled the city. Flocks of sheep stampeded. Horses threw their riders and bolted. First the mountain sent out a spray of red-hot rocks and pebbles. They rained down on the city. Then it put out clouds of toxic gases that killed all living things almost instantly. Next it spewed ash for a week. Tons of it fell on the city, covering it like a thick blanket. This formed an airtight cover about 12-feet deep that was not disturbed for over 1,500 years. Since oxygen could not reach the area, things did not decay.

Over time erosion broke down the top layer of ash. It turned into rich soil. Slowly the city became hidden beneath layers of dirt. People planted vineyards and forgot a city had ever been there. More eruptions buried the city even deeper. Then, in 1595, a worker digging a tunnel uncovered a small part of the buried city. It took historians more than a century to figure out it was Pompeii. No one was very interested in it until a man from Spain decided that the city held gold. In 1748 he began to uncover the ruins. He was shocked to find that the paint of the wall murals was bright and some food well preserved. Olives soaking in oil were still edible, and jugs held wine that had not soured!

But most amazing were the people. There was a Roman soldier still standing tall at his post. The priests' bodies indicate that they were doing their duties as well. Inside a home, a rich man stood with a sword in one hand and a foot atop a chest filled with gold and silver coins. It appears that he wanted to defend his wealth from the five men lying nearby. Actually, archaeologists found just the shells of these bodies. They poured plaster into these molds. This resulted in such detailed copies of the people that one can see the expressions on their faces.

Of the 200,000 people living in Pompeii, about 5,000 escaped. At the first sign of the eruption, the survivors did not wait to grab their belongings. They ran to the Mediterranean Sea and got into boats. Those who waited even a little while found that the volcano had caused wild tides that swept away both the docks and the boats. This left them stranded. Many bodies lay on the path to the sea. A total of 2,000 well-preserved corpses were found.

Now the ruins give us a glimpse of the once-beautiful, thriving city. There is still more to uncover, so the city remains under excavation. Millions of tourists come each year to see the city that slept for more than 1,500 years.

# Without Warning: The Destruction of Pompei

## Major Volcanic Eruptions (through 2006)

Year	Volcano	Where	Deaths
79	Mount Vesuvius	Italy	20,000
1631	Mount Vesuvius	Italy	3,500
1669	Mount Etna	Sicily, Italy	20,000
1783	Mount Skaptar	Laki, Iceland	9,000
1792	Mount Mayuyama	Unzen, Japan	15,000
1815	Mount Tambora	Java, Indonesia	70,000+
1822	Galunggung	Java, Indonesia	4,000
1883	Krakatoa	Java & Sumatra, Indonesia	36,000
1902	Mount Pelée	Martinique, West Indies	30,000+
1919	Mount Kelud	Indonesia	5,000
1951	Mount Lamington	New Guinea	3,000
1985	Nevado del Ruiz	Colombia	23,000
1991	Mount Pinatubo	Philippines	1,200



# Without Warning: The Destruction of Pompeii

1. In 79 C.E. the people of Pompeii
  - a. knew that they were living at the base of an active volcano.
  - b. had plenty of time to escape after Mount Vesuvius erupted.
  - c. were shocked when Mount Vesuvius erupted.
  - d. heard rumbling and saw smoke come from the mountain for weeks before it erupted.
2. Most people died from the
  - a. hot rocks and pebbles falling from the sky.
  - b. poisonous fumes.
  - c. boiling lava.
  - d. thick blanket of ash.
3. What percent of Pompeii's population died in this disaster?
  - a. 25 percent
  - b. 33 percent
  - c. 50 percent
  - d. 75 percent
4. The 79 C.E. eruption was the deadliest in Mount Vesuvius' history. True or False? Explain.

---

---

---

5. In terms of deadly volcanoes, what nation is the worst in which to live? Use facts from the chart in your answer.

---

---

---

---

---

6. Are the people living at the base of Mount Vesuvius today in as much danger as the people of Pompeii? Defend your stance.

---

---

---

---

---