



**Year Group:** Year 3-6

**Length:** 34 mins

**Starting Positions:** Sit in your own space

### Learning Intention:

*To know about...*

- To understand that the earth's crust is broken up into tectonic plates
- To understand that the movement of tectonic plates can cause volcanic eruptions and earthquakes
- To explore how communities living near plate boundaries prepare for earthquakes
- To explore the impact of volcano eruptions and earthquakes on humans and their environments

### Synopsis:

- On a school Geography trip, you meet your Italian host family, but the daughter Rosa is not friendly.
- Rosa explains that this is an earthquake zone, and teaches you what to do in case of an earthquake.
- Whilst exploring Pompeii you deliberately break the school rules and run away from Rosa.
- You fall down an old Roman well and time travel back to 79 AD; the day before the famous eruption.
- You meet a Roman slave called Felix, and are forced to work as a slave for his master, Titus.
- You and Felix try to save Pompeii by warning the Romans about the volcano, but no one believes you.
- Titus wants to feed you to the lions so you escape back down the well to the present.
- Everyone has been out looking for you; including Rosa, who sneaked out to find you in the Old Town.
- An earthquake hits and Rosa still isn't home. You can't find her in the evacuation camp either.
- At the camp we find Felix who also escaped down the well.
- Felix helps you find Rosa in the rubble of the Old Town, and together you save Rosa's life.

### Characters

- **Mr. Green**
- **Rosa's Mum**
- **Rosa**
- **Felix** – a Roman slave child
- **Titus** – high powered, rich Roman who owns slaves

### Locations:

- **Rosa's house**
- **Old school** – A school in the Old Town; no longer used because it is not earthquake proof.

- **Pompeii present day** – Ancient ruins of a Roman town, destroyed by the eruption in 79AD.
- **Pompeii Roman times** – A busy Roman town that had an amphitheatre, temples, a port and markets.
- **Titus' house** – A rich Roman house in the heart of Pompeii.
- **Amphitheatre** – The circular theatre used by the Romans for big events, such as gladiator fights.
- **Evacuation camp** – A safe place set up in the aftermath of the earthquake.

## Glossary:

- **Earth's crust** – The thin, hard outer layer of the Earth.
- **Tectonic plates** – Huge plates of rock that fit together like a jigsaw puzzle to create the Earth's crust. Where two plates meet, a plate boundary is created.
- **Volcano** - An opening in the Earth's crust through which molten rock and gases can erupt.
- **Magma** – Hot rock in liquid under the Earth's surface (called **lava** once outside).
- **Volcanic ash** – Tiny pieces of volcanic rock, minerals and glass, that erupt from a volcano.
- **Earthquake** – A violent shaking of the Earth's surface caused by movements in the Earth's crust.
- **Tremor** – A small shaking of the Earth's surface, sometimes called a minor earthquake.
- **Richter scale** – A numerical scale that measures the strength of an earthquake.

## Discussion:

### Story & Factual

- Rosa said her town was in an earthquake zone. What does that mean?
- What did Rosa's family keep in their earthquake 'go bag'?
- Romans believed in different gods. What was the name for their god of fire?
- What was the name of the volcano that erupted near Pompeii?
- What killed the parrot in Titus's house?
- How did you try to warn the Roman's that their lives were in danger?
- Why didn't the residents of Pompeii believe your warnings and travel to safety?
- Why did the police want to keep you away from the Old Town after the earthquake?

### PSHE & Philosophical

- How did you feel when you first met Rosa and she was unkind to you?
- How do you think the Romans felt when they first saw smoke coming from Mount Vesuvius?
- Titus was a slave master and wasn't very kind to you. Why did you try to save him?
- How did you feel when you realised Rosa was missing because she went looking for you?
- Some families can't return to their homes after an earthquake. How might that affect them?
- What do you think people need most after an earthquake?
- How would you feel if you lived near an earthquake zone?

## Resources:

- **Literacy Resources** – 5 creative writing ideas
- **Photo Storyboard** – order the images from the story (or use them for other things – e.g. writing)
- **Quick Quiz** – re-cap key facts
- **Or try some recount, report or creative writing ideas of your own!**