



Learning Something New Everyday: Pompeii

Daily Life In Pompeii

After reading Pliny's account of the eruption of Vesuvius and joining the recent archaeological dig, decide which source gave you the information listed in the Word Bank. Write the description in the appropriate column. Then add your own descriptions.

Word Bank:	
Some homes had bathrooms. Some homes had courtyards. Pompeii had "motels" and "restaurants." Pompeii had temples. People used torches and lamps for light. Upper-class Romans had leisure time. Romans devoted time to reading. Romans spent much of their time outdoors.	There were public fountains for all to get water. Women are characterized as helpless (begging Pliny's uncle to save). There was "women's work" (carrying messages, serving meals). Housing suggests some people were very rich and others were poor. Romans bathed. Some homes had fountains.

Pliny's Account	Archaeological Information
Romans spent much of their time outdoors.	Housing suggests some peopel were very rich and others were poor.
There was "women's work"	Pompeii had motels and restaurants
Women are characterized as helpless.	Pmpeii had temples.
Some rooms had bathrooms	Some homes had fountains
Some rooms had courtyards	There were public fountains for all to get water.
Romans devoted time to reading	
People used torches and lamps for light	
Romans bathed	
There was women's work	



Think About It: How does Pliny's account of Pompeii fit with current archaeological evidence?

The eruption was very sudden. Lots of people were not even aware of the danger and died in their sleep.

Thinking Cap Question: How do new discoveries change our knowledge of history? Cite some examples. (Think about the Iceman, Tut's tomb, etc.)

Initial ideas about how life was in the past are proven likely or discounted based on new discoveries. Sometimes discoveries lead to brand new ideas about what life was like based on what is found.

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