



Fun Volcano Facts:

- A volcano is an opening (usually in a mountain) in the Earth's surface from which gas, hot magma and ash can escape.
- The word volcano comes from the Roman name "Vulcan" – the Roman god of fire.
- The hot liquid rock inside a volcano is called magma, but once it leaves the volcano, it's called lava.
- Volcanic eruptions can send ash over 17 miles into the air above the Earth's surface.
- Most volcanoes are located above where tectonic plates meet. This is especially true for the Pacific Ring of Fire, located in the basin of the Pacific Ocean. There you can find 452 volcanoes, over 75% the world's active and dormant volcanoes.
- Most volcanoes form near tectonic boundaries, but they can also form in areas that contain abnormally hot rock inside the Earth. Known as mantle plumes, these hotspots are found at a number of locations around the globe.

Facts about the eruption of Mount Vesuvius and the preservation of Pompeii:

- One of the most noted natural disasters in the world was the eruption of Mount Vesuvius on August 24, 79 A.D. It sent a cloud of ashes, pumice, rocks and hot volcanic gases into the sky that people could see for hundreds of miles.
- The large amount of ash (known as a pyroclastic flow) that covered the city acted as a preservative. During a pyroclastic flow, enormous volumes of extremely hot gases, ash, and rocks rush down the side of a volcano, like an avalanche; there are also big explosions and large, billowing clouds. This mixture of ash, rock and gas, covered the city and froze it in time.
- Ironically, the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 A.D., happened just one day after VULCANALIA, the festival of Vulcan, the Roman god of fire, for whom volcanoes are named.
- Archeologists set out to excavate the city from the ashes that surrounded it in 1748.
- Mount Vesuvius is still active today. It has produced some of the continent's largest volcanic eruptions. Located on Italy's west coast, it overlooks the Bay and City of Naples.

