Jack Fitzpatrick

**Pompeii Lesson Plan**

**Objectives**

* The Students will locate and identify geographic features around Pompeii.
* The students will evaluate the reasons for and importance of archaeology.
* The students will analyze primary sources.
* The students will examine archaeological artifacts and infer meaning and use of said artifacts.
* The students will interpret history through artifacts, arts, and media.
* The students will work collaboratively in groups.
* The students will use what they have learned about archaeology and recreate a scene based on archaeological artifacts and primary source documents.

**Day one**

When students enter, have on [Ancient Roman Music](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=viVLQtfOUPc&list=RDuJLXyBzMci0).

Hand out packets.

Begin by showing the students the painting ["The Last Day of Pompeii"](file:///S:\Faculty\Fitzpatrick\Quarter%202%20Rome\Pompeii\The%20Last%20Day%20of%20Pompeii.jpg) with guided questions which are: What do you think is happening in this painting? When does this event appear to be taking place? What do you notice about the people? How are they dressed? Do they seem to be rich or poor, young or old? Do you think they knew what was happening? **(10 minutes)**

Look at a map of the area and locate Vesuvius, Pompeii, Bay of Naples, and Herculaneum. **(3 minutes)**

View stills of artifacts, and have students sketch the items, and write a brief description about what they believe it was used for and who might have owned it or used it. Encourage originality and imagination. **(15 minutes)**

View the stills of molds of victims. Students should annotate what they think may have happened. Were they asleep? Were they trying to escape? Who were they? What was their social status? Did they attempt to wait out the eruption or flee? **(10 minutes)**

Explain the role of archaeologists? Have a guided discussion about what we've gained through archaeology. **(3 minutes)**

**Day 2**

Audio tour of artifacts located on DVD. Were you correct about your predictions of the artifacts?

Look at Pliny's first-hand account of the event.

Begin the film "[Pompeii, the Last Day](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQzDcZE2hoE&list=PL1ADBC227F6067768)" accompanied by a film guide.

**Day 3**

Finish the film.

Follow up questions, based on what you've learned, how accurate does the film appear to be? What is conjecture? What is based on the evidence? What is based on conjecture?

Discuss how archaeologists were able to recreate an event based on the evidence, including Pliny's account.

Create dig groups.

**Day 4**

Today you will examine an archaeological dig site. As a team, you will attempt to recreate a scene based on archaeological evidence. There will be one large scene set up for all groups to examine. Include a first hand account of something that could have happened, similar to Pliny's account of the eruption, for groups to read.

**Day 5**

Share recreated stories, and compare them. Which are based on evidence? Which are based on conjecture?