

Continuity in Culture: Romans in Pompeii



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Pompeii

Meaning of the Name

- **Pompeii**

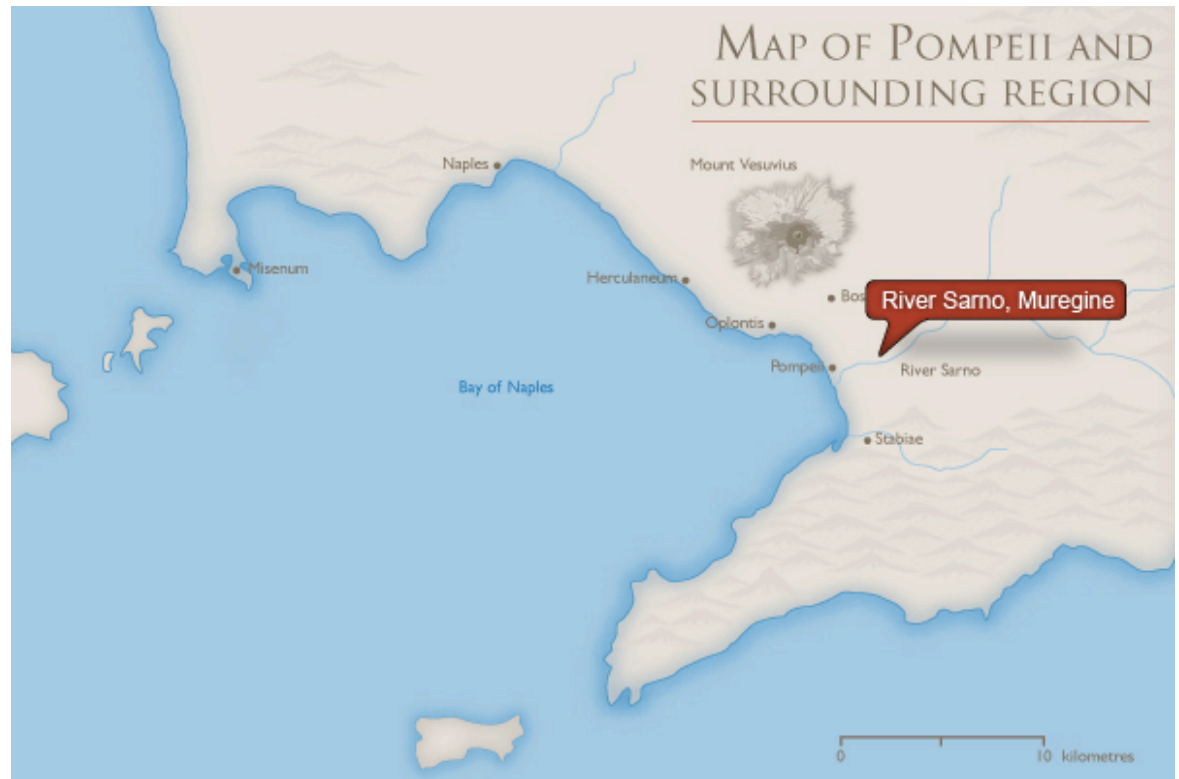
- **Italic root: the number 5**
- **Two possible meanings:**
 - **Five ethnic groups joined together as a federation to control the mouth of the Sarno.**
 - **Five is the number of fingers on one hand. Symbolism: Pompeii fathered all the groups from the (undefined and vague) neighboring region.**



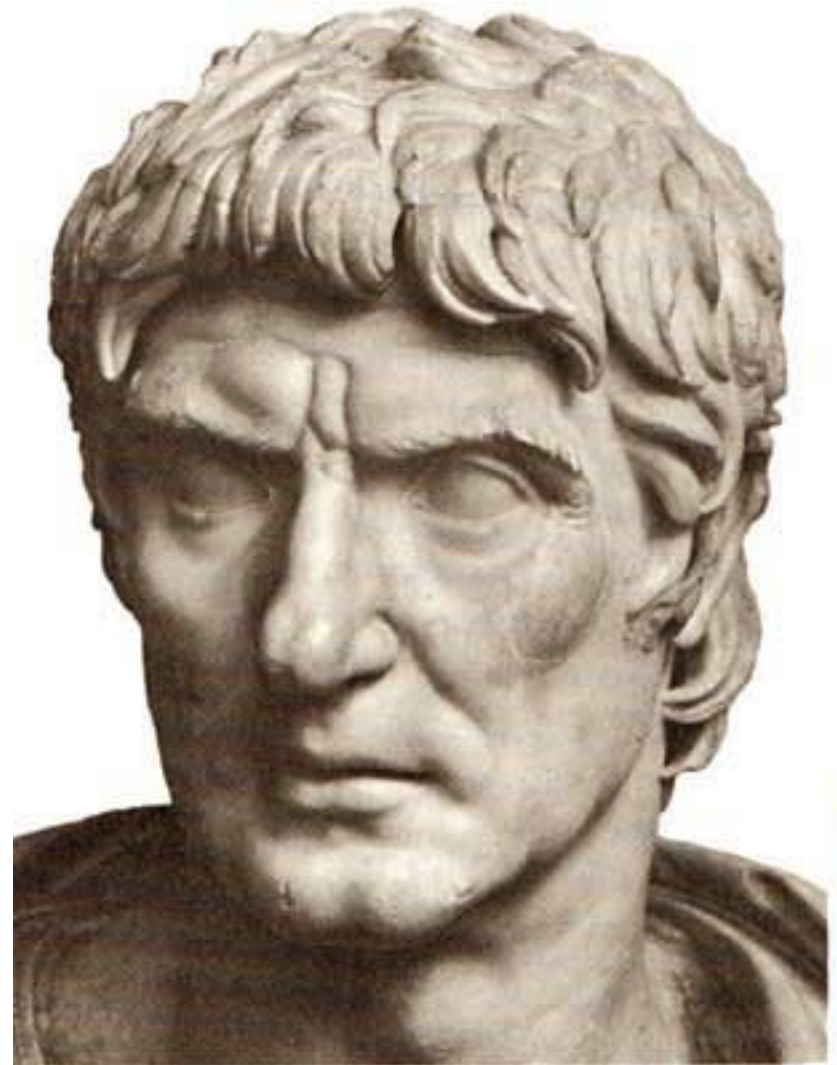
- **As early as 300 BC**, Pompeii was built of durable materials (mud brick, stone and wood) and had taken on the **configuration** that was to persist up until Vesuvius' eruption on 79 AD
- But the area around Pompeii had **frequent earthquakes**



- Pompeii controlled the mouth of the Sarno River and all trade along the river
- **Main economy was trade of agricultural products**



- A Samnite city, Pompeii was a **close ally** of Rome
 - Romans were interested in trade with the Samnites
- In 80 B.C. during the Italian Civil War **Sulla** conquered Pompeii
- The gradual **assimilation of Roman culture** followed in Pompeii



ANTIKSAMMLUNGEN, MÜNCHEN



Please get into your groups!
On your table, you will see the name
of a person.

**By the end of today, you will find
out if you have survived the
eruption of Vesuvius.**





Satellite image of Mt. Vesuvius





Map of the wind direction of the volcanic ash





View the Video "Pompeii Deconstructed"

Or next slide



Imagine yourself...

In Pompeii on August 24, 79 AD.



Instead of Previous Slide
Play the Video “A Day in Pompeii”





Pompeii Then

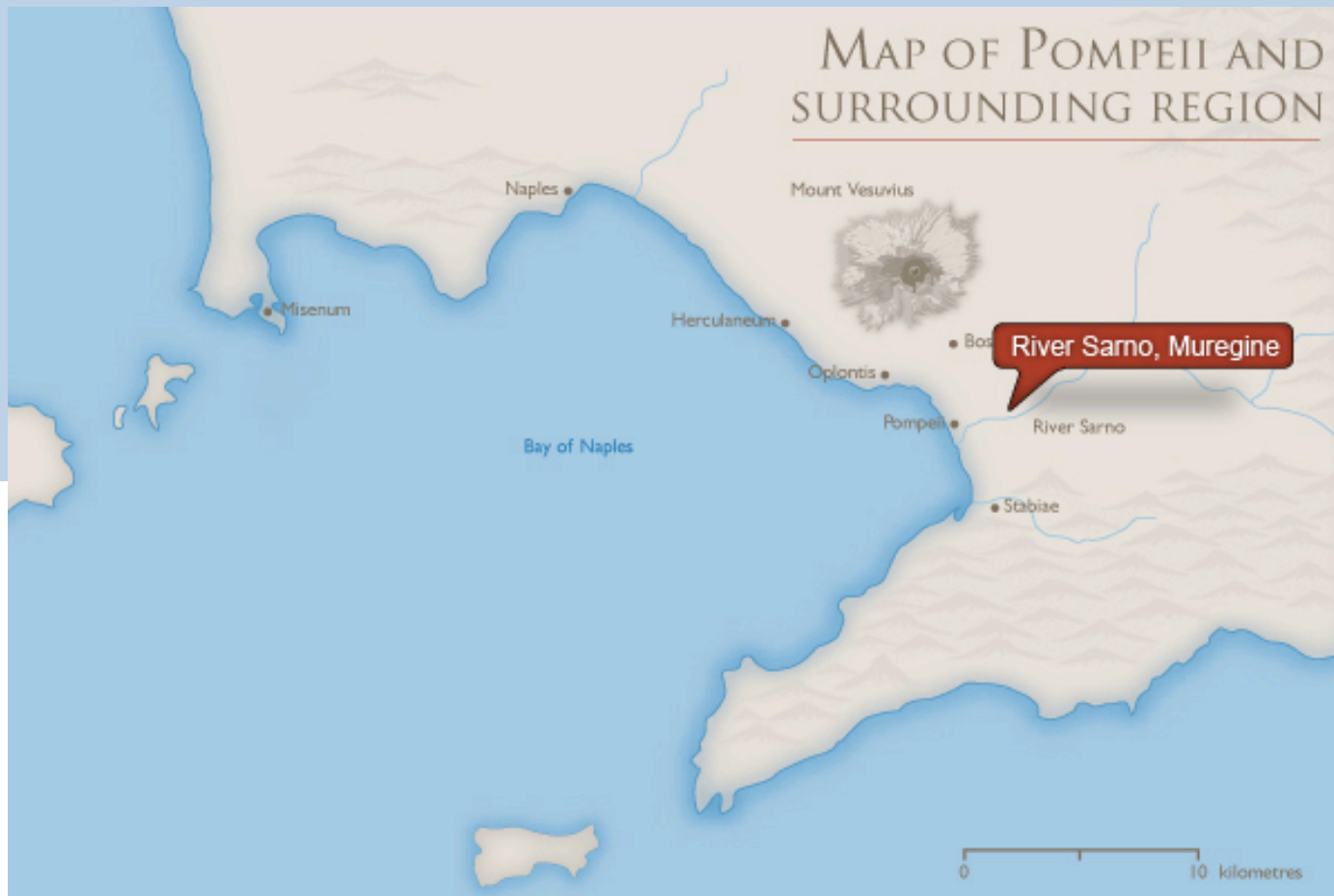




Pompeii Now



- After the eruption in 79 A.D, Pompeii was lost until serious excavations began in 1748. Even then, no one was sure if the site was Stabiae or Pompeii.



Charles III Bourbon, King of Spain and Naples

- Workmen on his summer house uncovered artifacts from Pompeii.
- Charles saw the sight as a way to gain influence
- **Excavations and Archaeological discoveries led to Political Influence**
- Artifacts from Pompeii now at the National Archaeological Museum in Naples



TODAY

- Whereas Rome exists in layers (building over buildings), Pompeii is a **city frozen in time**
- In Pompeii, tourists can see the **skeleton** of a complete city of ancient times (minus all decorative elements and free-standing objects)
 - It is possible to see walls, houses, temples, streets, fountains, and theatres
 - Furniture, décor, utensils, sculptures, ornaments, frescoes, and mosaics primarily in **National Archaeological Museum in Naples**



Did you die or survive?

