**Pompeii Yesterday and Today**

Pompeii was an ancient city in southern Italy that 9 disappeared after a nearby volcano erupted in a.d. 79. The city 20

lay buried under layers of cinders, ashes, and stone for hundreds 31

of years before it was rediscovered in the 1700s. Now more than 43

three quarters of the city has been uncovered, and much of the 55 city looks just as it did in ancient times. 64

During the disaster, lava and mud flowed into a nearby city 75

but not into Pompeii. Instead, the city was showered with hot, 86 wet ashes and cinders. When the ashes and cinders dried, they 97 covered and sealed up much of the city. Only the tops of walls 110 and columns could be seen. Later, other eruptions completely 119 buried the city. 122

Many wealthy Romans lived in ancient Pompeii. The 130 weather in Pompeii was warm and sunny, and Romans built 140 large villas there to take advantage of the good climate. Many of 152

the buildings near the center of the city had two stories. The city 165

was surrounded by a great wall with seven gates and had a 177 theater, many temples, a gladiator’s court, and three large public 187

baths. 188

During the eruption of a.d. 79, the air was filled with 199 poisonous gases. Many people were able to get away, but many 210

others died in their homes or as they fled. 219

Today visitors can walk in and out of houses and up and 231 down narrow lanes, just as people did long ago. The eruption 242 took place while the city was having an election. Visitors can 253 still see election slogans on many walls. 260

Hidden-12

X Words-15