



# Fourth Grade

## ELA

## GRADE 4 ELA ACTIVITY 2 – ADVENTURES BY LAND, AIR AND WATER

A video lesson of a Knox County 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher that accompanies this text is available on KCS YouTube Channel and KCS TV.



In this text, your child will be looking for specific clues about:

**TOPIC:** Adventures by Land, Air and Water

**ESSENTIAL QUESTION:** What makes an adventure?

**BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE FOR SENTENCE COMPOSITION:** Phrase and clause will be referenced throughout the lesson; below is additional instruction if needed.

**Phrase: a group of related words**

- *Ex. Over the moon, in your desk, the best teacher, running quickly*
- *Phrases are important to sentence writing because they give information and details about the clause*

**Clause: a group of words with a subject and its predicate (verb)**

- *Clauses are the building blocks of all sentences.*
- *The way we combine clauses gives us sentence variety and makes the writing interesting to readers.*
  - *Example: John went to the store*
    - *What is the subject? John*
    - *Predicate? went*
    - *Phrase? to the store*
  - *What if I wrote "John went"?*
  - *Is that a phrase or clause? Clause- because it has a subject and predicate*
  - *Notice the phrase adds more detail and clarity. It tells me where John went.*

**READING THE TEXT: An Amazing Discovery**

- You may choose to take turns reading the text with your child, read the text at the same time, or have your child read independently.

**ASK QUESTIONS:**

- What evidence from the text helps you understand that this is historical fiction?
- What are three interesting questions you could ask about Pompeii?
- Do you think historical artifacts should belong to the person who finds them or be owned by a museum and displayed for more people to see?

**PROMPT:** Write a paragraph to explain the effects Mount Vesuvius had on people. Use evidence from the text to support your response.

**EXEMPLAR:**

The eruption of Mount Vesuvius was a major event that affected many people's lives. Aldo and his family were farmers in the 1700s living in Italy. Their crops were able to flourish in this area because of the fertile soil, made rich by volcanic ash. This volcanic ash was left behind after the eruption of Mount Vesuvius many centuries earlier and positively impacted Aldo and his family. Conversely, this major eruption had negative impacts on the people that lived in the cities near Mount Vesuvius. The eruption burned and buried these cities in A.D. 79. When Aldo and his neighbors discovered a collection of ruins from these ancient cities, historians and archaeologists from all over the world were attracted to the area to learn more about history. They excavated the area for artifacts and ruins to learn more about the people who lived there before the eruption. Tourists then visited these farmlands and were able to observe the historical artifacts. The volcanic eruption of Mount Vesuvius affected many people in a variety of ways, ranging from a large number of deaths to a fertile farmland with flourishing crops.

# AN AMAZING DISCOVERY

“Marcus, get your mother!” Aldo yelled. “I have something to show her!” It was a sizzling hot day. Aldo had risen early so he and his son could work in the coolness of the morning. They raised olives and grapes on a quaint farm in Italy in the early 1700s. These crops flourished in the fertile soil, made rich by volcanic ash.


That morning Aldo was digging a new well. As he was digging, his shovel hit something hard. He put the shovel down and started scraping at the dirt with his hands. When Marcus returned with his mother, Gina, they found Aldo looking into the eyes of a beautiful face. They helped him continue digging until they had uncovered an entire statue carved from marble.

“Aldo, my sister told me about a neighbor who found something like this when he dug his well,” Gina said. “Do you think this is part of the same collection of ruins?”

The family met with their neighbors. Soon everyone was comparing items they had found in their own farm fields. People had unearthed coins, jewelry, bowls, and bricks. Some had even found bones.

Aldo and his neighbors worked their lands, and uncovered many other interesting artifacts buried in the soil. Soon, however, they were told to stop. They found out their farms were located near where the ancient city of Herculaneum had once been. To continue



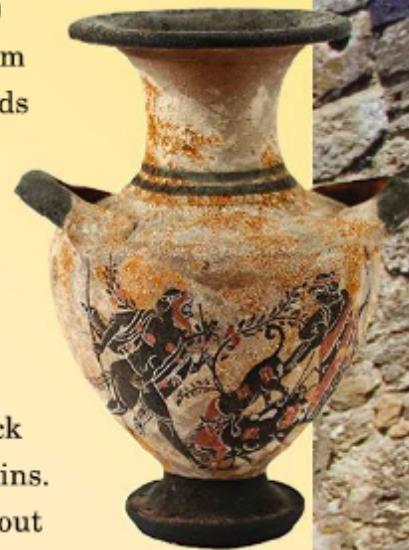


digging might damage the ruins and make it impossible to learn their secrets from the past.

Many centuries earlier, Herculaneum and Pompeii had been thriving cities. Yet one horrific day in A.D. 79, they were destroyed by a volcanic eruption. That day the nearby volcano known as Mount Vesuvius (ve SUE vee es) erupted. It buried the cities of Herculaneum and Pompeii under rock and ash. Thousands of people died, and everything in the cities was burned or buried.

Since the discovery of ruins that remain from the two cities, historians and archaeologists from all over the world have come to the area to excavate and see what else they can find. Today tourists flock to Pompeii and Herculaneum to see the ruins.

Aldo and his neighbors often talked about what life must have been like in Herculaneum. They thought about how, if they had lived in the first century A.D., their farms would have been right in the middle of the city. Certainly they were glad to have lived instead at a different time, when their farms became a popular tourist attraction that drew visitors from around the world.



## SLEUTH WORK

**Gather Evidence** What evidence helps you understand that this is historical fiction? List three details.

**Ask Questions** Write three interesting questions about Pompeii.

**Make Your Case** Do you think historical artifacts should belong to the person who finds them or be owned by a museum and displayed for more people to see? Give two reasons to support your opinion.









# ELEMENTARY READING ACTIVITY 2

Handouts can be found under the ***Student Resource Tab*** on The Knox County Schools website - [www.knoxschools.org](http://www.knoxschools.org)



**KCS**  **home**  
*Summer Edition*





1. Turn on closed captions, if available.



2. Adjust the playback speed to slow down the video.



3. Consider watching short clips then pause, listen, and watch again.



4. Ask someone in your home to watch the video with you. Stop frequently and talk to your partner about what you heard and understood.

If this video  
is hard to  
understand:



# ADVENTURES BY LAND, AIR, AND WATER

## Essential Question:

What makes an **adventure**?

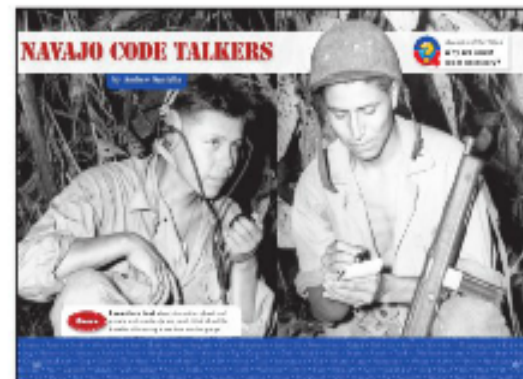
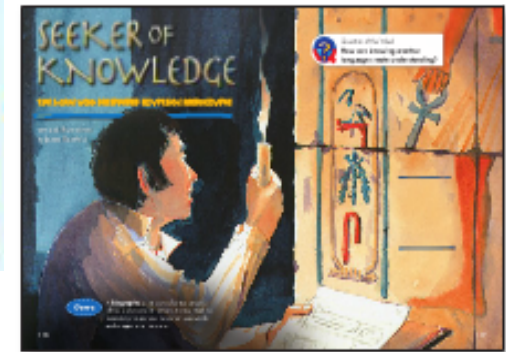
### Morphology

- ad- toward
- vent- come
- (t)ure- action of



# KNOWLEDGE BUILDING

- What makes an adventure?



# ADVENTURES BY LAND, AIR, AND WATER

## **Learning Target:**

Read closely to explain the effects of a major event.

## **Success Criteria**

- Identify the major effects
- Explain and elaborate on the effects
- Include topic specific vocabulary
- Include a variety of sentences with correct punctuation and capitalization



# Learning Target: Read closely to explain the effects of a major event.

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"Aldo, my sister told me about a neighbor who found something like this when he dug his well," Gina said. "Do you think this is part of the same collection of ruins?"

The family met with their neighbors. Soon everyone was comparing items they had found in their own farm fields. People had unearthed coins, jewelry, bowls, and bricks. Some had even found bones.

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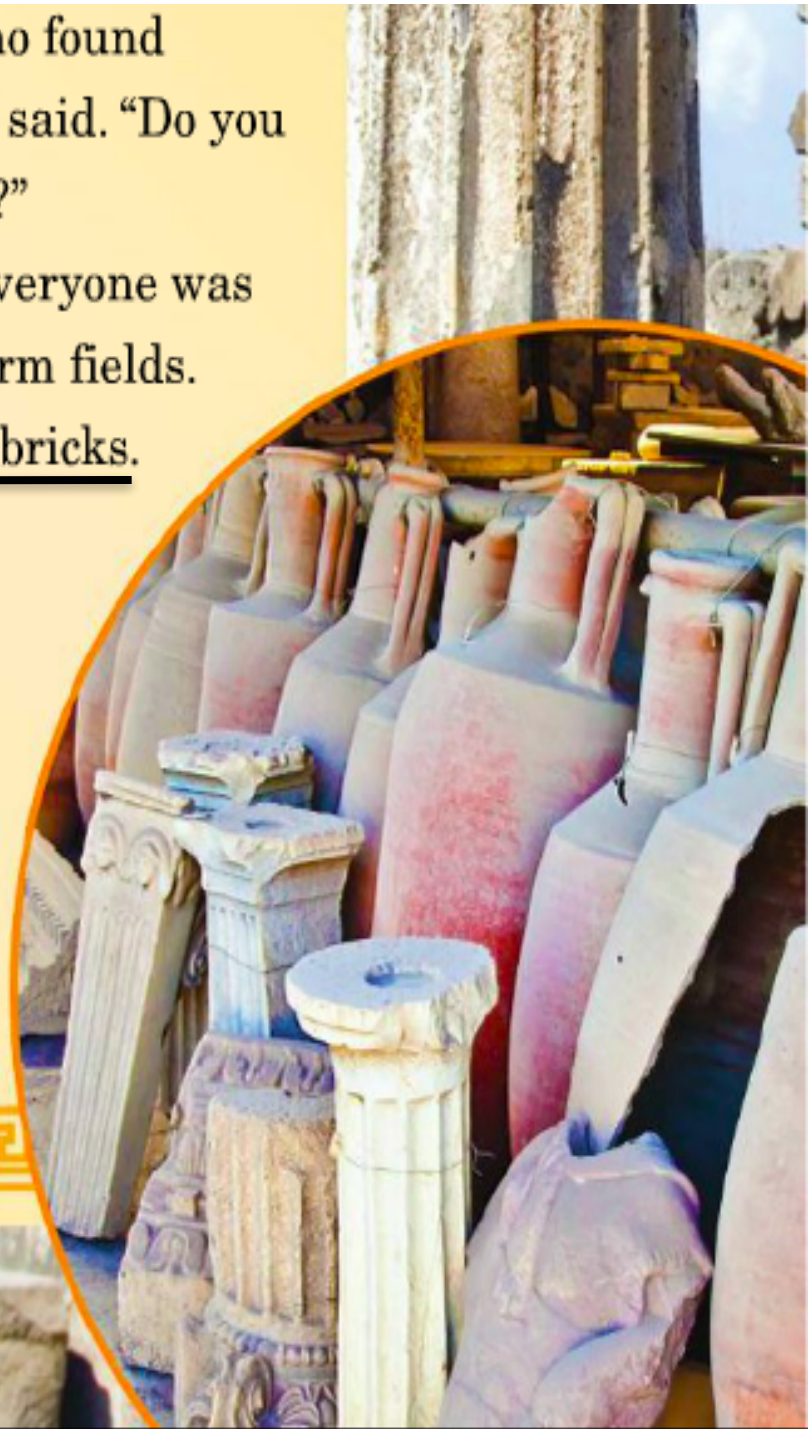




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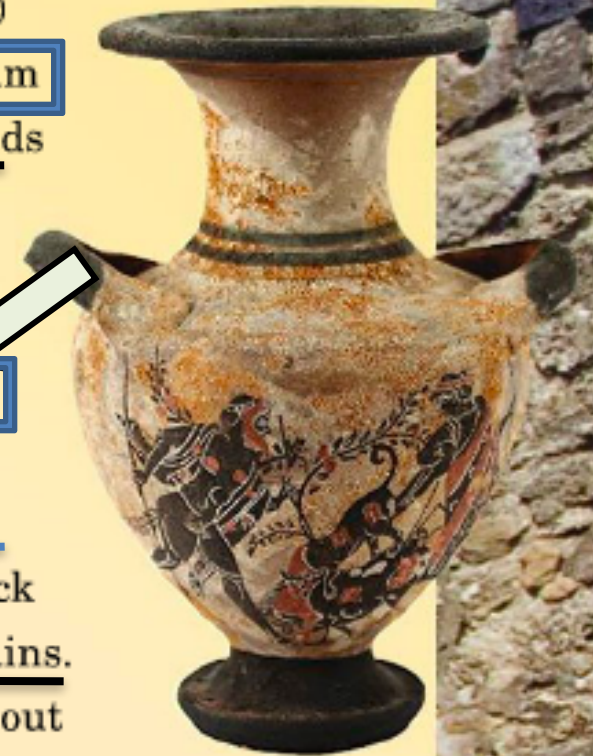
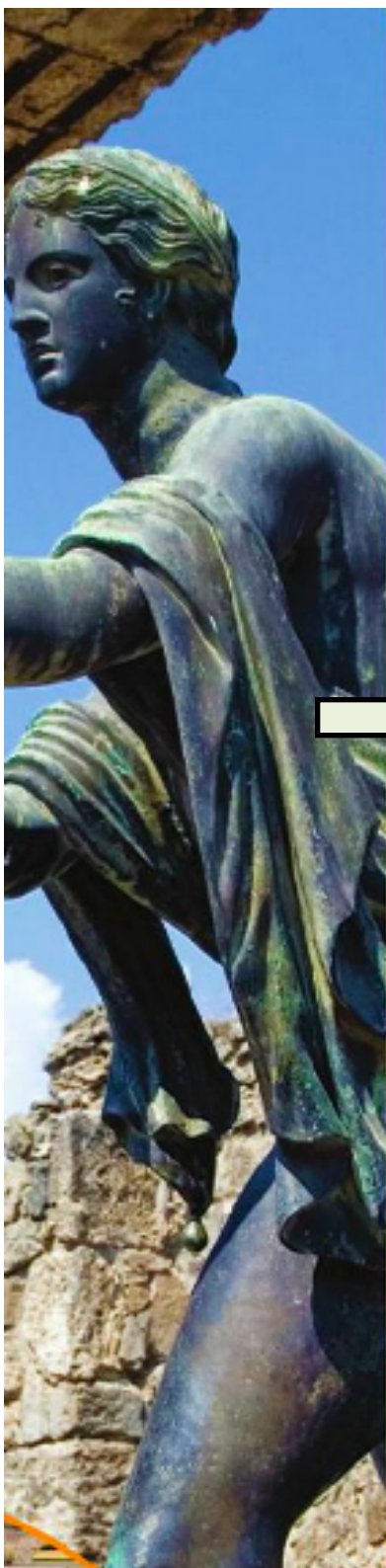
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## **Quick Write**

Write a paragraph to explain the effects Mount Vesuvius had on people. Use evidence from the text to support your response.

## **Success Criteria**

- Identify the major effects
- Explain and elaborate on the effects
  - Aldo and his family
  - Ancient people
  - People of today
- Include topic specific vocabulary
- Include a variety of sentences with correct punctuation and capitalization

# EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

- Generate a list of evidence for each column: fiction details versus factual information from history

Fiction	Historical Facts

- Write three interesting questions you have about the ancient cities
- Write an opinion paragraph on who you believe artifacts should belong to

# RECAP

**Learning Target:** Read closely to explain the effects of a major event.

- What makes an adventure?
- Major events can have major effects on people
- Topic specific vocabulary
- Writing tasks
- Extension tasks





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**ELEMENTARY READING**  
**Ashley Flemming**  
**West Hills Elementary**

