

Pompeii's Pizza-like Painting

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. Archaeology (Noun) /ˌɑːrkiˈɒlədʒi/: The study of ancient human history and civilizations through the analysis of artifacts, buildings, and other physical remains.
Example: Archaeology provides insights into the lives of ancient cultures through their artifacts and structures.
2. Dig (Noun) /dɪɡ/: An excavation or site where archaeologists carefully uncover and investigate historical remains to learn about the past.
Example: The archaeological dig unearthed rare artifacts from the ancient city.
3. Captivating (Adjective) /ˈkæptɪˌveɪtɪŋ/: Attracting and holding attention in a compelling or fascinating manner.
Example: The museum's captivating exhibit showcased archaeological treasures from diverse time periods.
4. Showcase (Verb) /ˈʃoʊˌkeɪs/: To display or exhibit something to highlight its significance, beauty, or importance.
Example: The new museum will showcase significant archaeological discoveries from the region's past.
5. Mouthwatering (Adjective) /ˈmaʊθˌwɔːtərɪŋ/: Extremely delicious or tempting, to the point of causing one's mouth to water in anticipation.
Example: The restaurant's mouthwatering menu enticed a steady stream of hungry customers.
6. Intriguing (Adjective) /ɪnˈtriːɡɪŋ/: Arousing curiosity or interest due to being mysterious, unusual, or fascinating.
Example: The discovery of the ancient artifact proved to be intriguing and prompted further investigation by experts.



In the field of **archaeology**, a fascinating discovery has appeared during a recent **dig**. Hidden for over 2,000 years, a painting showing a scene similar to a modern pizza was found among other delicious treats. This remarkable find took place in an unexplored area of Pompeii, untouched since the 19th century, within a house neighboring a bakery.

The **captivating** artwork **showcases** a tray decorated with various **mouthwatering** foods, including wine, pomegranates, figs, dates, and nuts. Among these, an **intriguing** creation that attracts attention resembles pizza. Researchers understood that the two yellow fruits in the painting are not pineapples but rather strawberry tree fruit, commonly found in southern Europe.

Even though it looks like pizza, it's not exactly the same. Experts say it might be a type of flatbread decorated with fruits and maybe a sauce like pesto. The real pizza ingredients, like tomatoes and mozzarella, were not available at that time.

Pompeii is famous for being destroyed by a volcano long ago. Now it's a place where people visit to see the old city. The painting is a new piece of information about the food people ate in earlier times.

DISCUSSION

1. What are your thoughts on the discovery of the pizza-like painting in Pompeii? How do you think such findings contribute to our understanding of ancient culinary practices?
2. The painting depicted a flatbread with various fruits and possibly a pesto-like sauce, resembling a pizza but lacking essential ingredients like tomatoes and mozzarella. What other interesting early versions of popular dishes do you think might have existed in ancient times?
3. Pompeii's close proximity to Naples, often considered the birthplace of pizza, adds significance to this discovery. How do you think cultural connections between regions influence culinary traditions and shape popular dishes?
4. The painting was found in an area of Pompeii that hadn't been explored since the 19th century. How important is ongoing archaeological research in unearthing new information about ancient civilizations and their way of life?
5. Pompeii's tragic history, destroyed by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius, has frozen the city's buildings and contents in time. How do you think such preserved remnants help us appreciate the significance of historical sites and their impact on present-day culture and heritage?