STRUCT | Operation Pompeii
Field Report: Route Under Pressure

L 2

Reading purpose: Track the danger, the route and the agents' plan.

1. Track the **setting**: underline the place names: Forum · Mount Vesuvius · Pompeii

2. Circle the words that show **danger**: ash · beam · arch · route.

Morph key

struct = build / put together
re- = again / back
ob- = in the way / against
de- = down / apart
-ion = action / result

Quick glossary

Forum = the main square
Vesuvius = the volcano above Pompeii
receiver = a device for hearing messages
evacuation = moving people away from danger
brace = a support that helps hold something up
tremor = a small shaking movement in the ground

The Forum was crowded when the first shadow crossed the square. It slid over the temple steps, the market stalls and the fountain, and for one strange second the noise of Pompeii seemed to thin. A basket dropped. A dog barked once, then fell silent. Every face turned towards Mount Vesuvius.

A dark column was rising from the volcano. It climbed into the bright sky, thick and silent at first, then spreading like spilled ink above the city. Ash began to fall. At first it looked like dust. Then the flakes grew heavier, settling on baskets, shoulders and stone. The air tasted dry. People stared at the mountain. Some clutched bags to their chests. Others stood frozen in the road, waiting for someone else to move first. A sharp crack split across the square.

A wooden beam had snapped from a shopfront and crashed across the route to the bakery. Dust surged up from the stones. The way was obstructed. Families stopped moving. Behind them, more people pressed into the Forum as the ash thickened.

Senior Agent Vale's voice cut through the receiver. "Trainee agents, listen carefully. The Erasure has reopened the fault. Senior agents are working to close it, but the evacuation route is failing. Your job is to keep the path open."

The agents looked across the Forum. The fountain still stood. The gate was still clear. But the arch beside the bakery was weakening. Cracks ran through the stone, thin and dark. With every tremor, the whole structure shook.

"We can't move them under that arch," one agent said. "Not unless we reconstruct the walkway first."

The trainees dragged two wooden braces under the arch. The first brace slipped on the ash-covered stones. The second locked into place with a heavy thud. The arch groaned above them. For a moment, no one breathed. Then it held.

"Now restructure the route," Vale ordered. "Move the line left of the fountain. Keep everyone away from the bakery wall."

Step by careful step, the citizens followed the new path. Children gripped their parents' hands. Ash settled steadily on roofs, shoulders and the fresh timber braces. Behind them, a market stall splintered apart. The sound of destruction echoed through the Forum. But the walkway held, and the line of people kept moving away from the eruption.



Above the city, the dark column climbed higher. Somewhere beyond the square, senior agents were fighting to close the fault. Here, in the Forum, the trainee agents had one task: keep the route open long enough for the people to escape.

After reading

1. **Spot the signal:** Underline five words in the Report that belong to the STRUCT family.

2. **Decode:** Use the Morph Key to tick the best meaning.
obstructed means:
- ▫ built again
- ▫ carried away
- ▫ blocked the way
- ▫ watch carefully

3. Use the Morph Key: **destruction** is closest in meaning to:
- ▫ a safe structure
- ▫ the result of damage or breaking apart
- ▫ a route through the city
- ▫ a person giving instructions

4. **Locate the danger:** Find and copy one detail that shows the evacuation route is unsafe. **Sentence starter:** One detail that shows the route is unsafe is...

_____

_____

5. **Track the sequence:** Number the events in the order they happen.
- ___ The agents restructure the route left of the fountain.
- ___ A wooden beam crashes across the route to the bakery.
- ___ The citizens begin moving along the new path.
- ___ The trainees place wooden braces under the arch.
- ___ Senior Agent Vale explains that the evacuation route is failing.

6. **Explain:** Finish the sentence. **The trainees needed to reconstruct the walkway because...** _____

_____

7. **Prove the mission outcome:** How do we know the trainees' plan worked?
Tick the best answer.
- ▫ The dark column disappeared from the sky.
- ▫ The senior agents closed the time fault.
- ▫ The walkway held and the line of people kept moving.
- ▫ The Forum became quiet again.

8. **Prepare the Mission Report**
Use your answers to complete the planning lines.

Problem: The evacuation route is unsafe because... _____

Action: The trainees respond by... _____

Outcome: This helps because... _____

Two **STRUCT** family words I will use:
1. _____ 2. _____