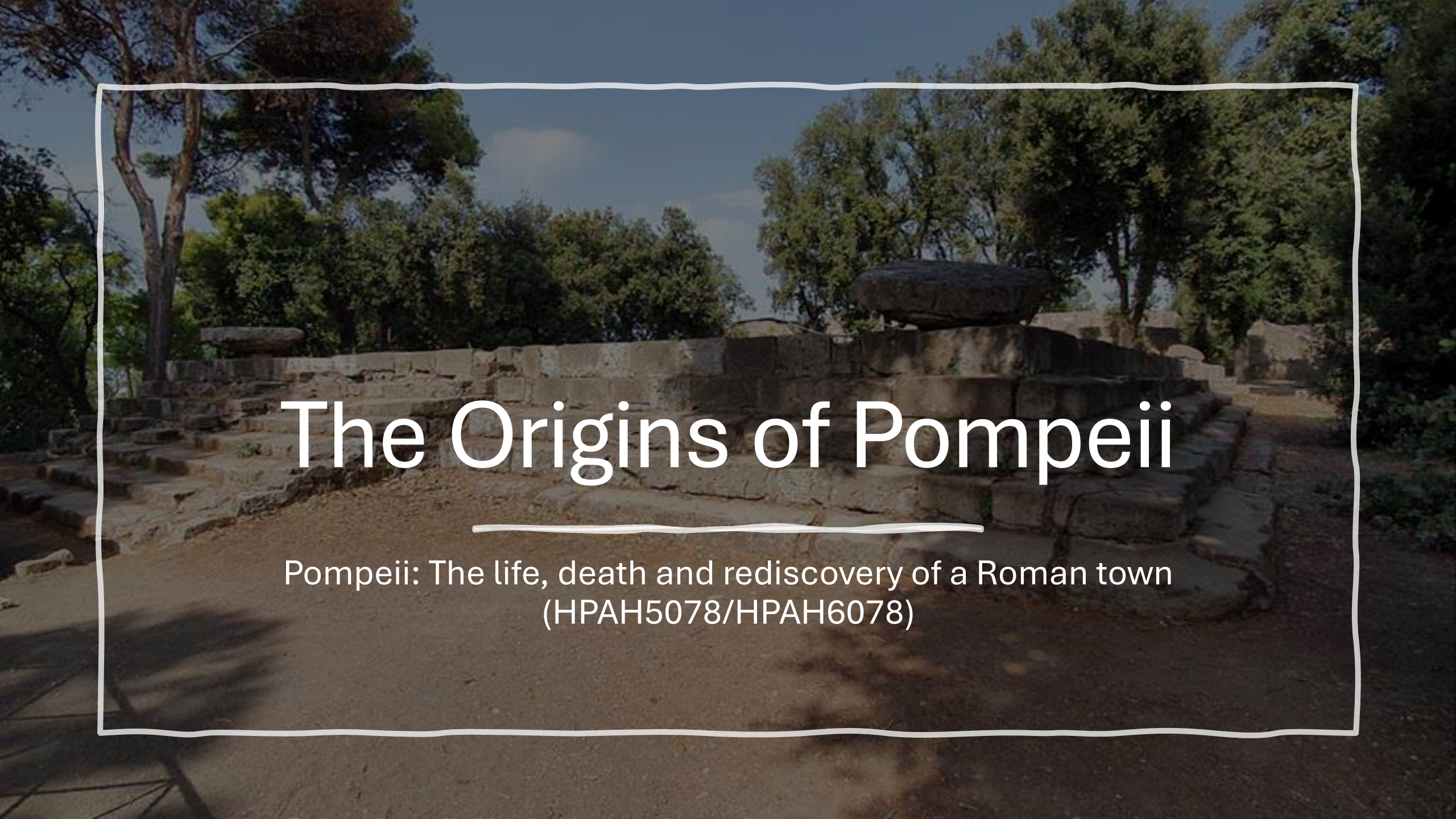




# The Origins of Pompeii

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Pompeii: The life, death and rediscovery of a Roman town  
(HPAH5078/HPAH6078)



## Understanding the early history of Pompeii: the challenges

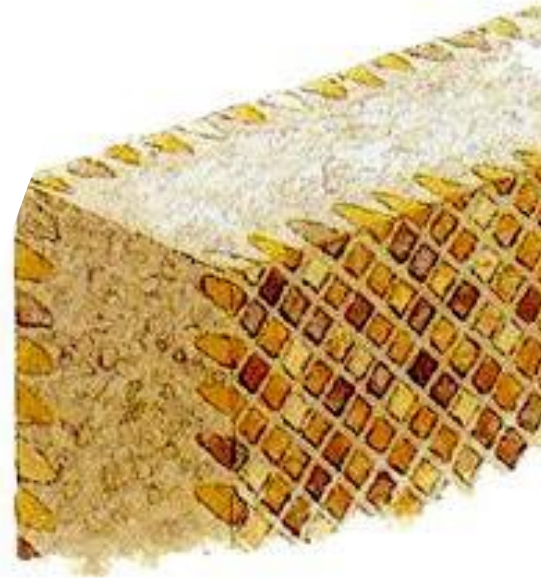
- Removing debris and recovering “treasures”.
- Initially, little stratigraphic excavations.
- Surviving remains and conservation.

**How do you safely excavate at Pompeii?**

# Comparing literary testimony and archaeological remains

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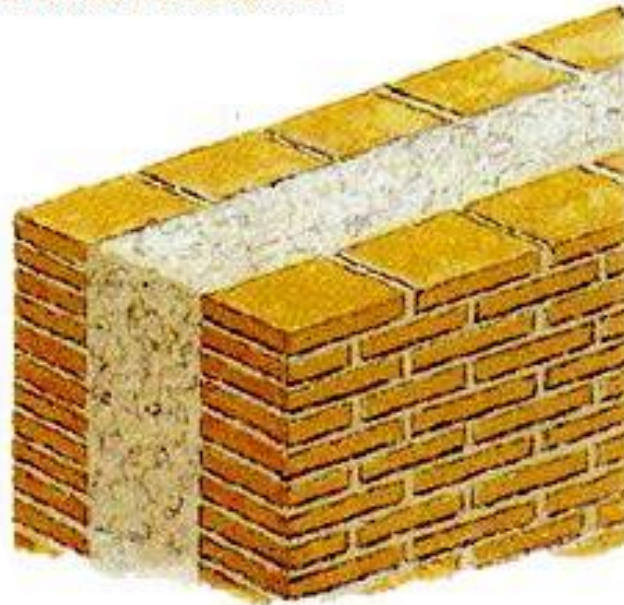
- Reliance on literary narrative for early history.
  - Strabo (5.4.9); Pliny (3.60-62).
- Comparing building styles (Giuseppe Fiorelli) and wall-decorations (August Mau).
- Many surviving structures no earlier than 3rd century BC.
  - But 6th century walls and pottery.



OPUS RETICULATUM



OPUS INCERTUM



OPUS TESTACEUM

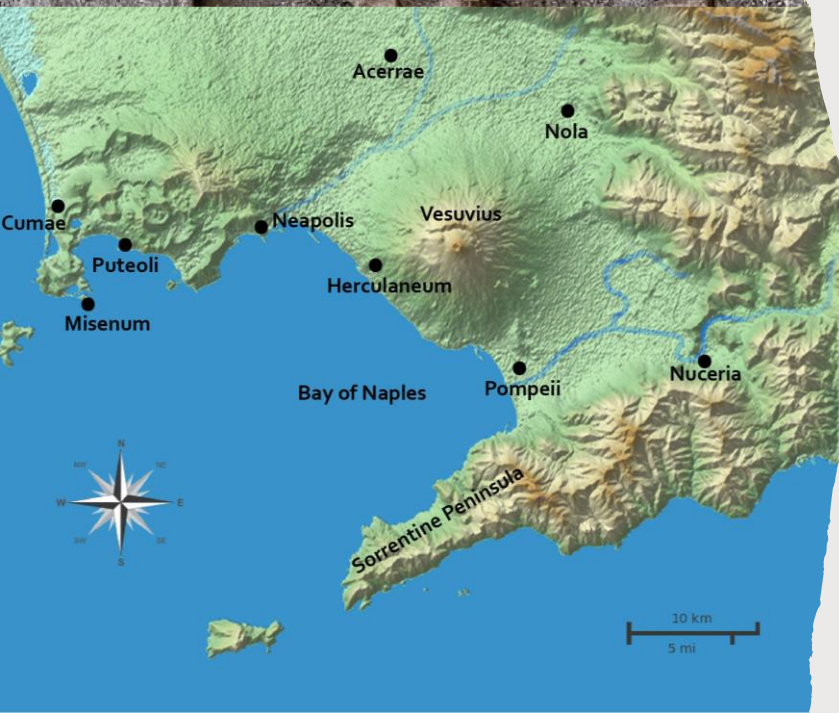


OPUS CAEMENTICIUM



# Foundations of Pompeii

- Settlements in Campania since at least Neolithic.
- Greek and Etruscan presence in region (from 8th century).
- Earliest structures as Pompeii:
  - Temple of Apollo, Doric Temple, walls.
- **Who founded Pompeii?**



# The Samnites



- Growth of Samnite presence in region from 6th century.
  - Capture of Capua in 423 and Cumae in 420 BC.
- Oscan displacing Greek on inscriptions.
- Limited archaeological material – end of 6th to end of 4th century.

‘When Theodorus was archon in Athens (438/437 BC), the Romans elected as consuls Marcus Genucius and Agrippa Curtius Chilo. In Italy, during this year, the nation of the Campani was formed, deriving them name from the fertility of the plain...’ – **Diod. Sic. 12.31.1.**

# Roman hegemony in the Bay of Naples

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- First and Second Samnite wars.
- Pompeii loyal during Hannibalic invasion.
- Stability and growth during third to early first century BC.
- Continued presence of Oscan inscriptions.



The “Tholos” of Numerius Trebius, Triangular Forum – associated Oscan inscription.

# The 1st century BC

- Social war (91-89 BC).
- Colonia Cornelia Veneria Pompeianorum.
  - Sulla belonged to the Cornelia *gens* and saw Venus as his patron deity.
  - New political settlement and new structures.
- Prosperity in the Augustan period.
  - Temple of Augustan Fortune and the Eumachia building, the Sanctuary of the Public Lares, palaestra(?), a series of public fountains, etc.

