

Taking Research Notes

Pretend that your group has decided to study the volcanic region near Naples, Italy, where Mount Vesuvius is located. Your topic is how people have used volcanoes for health benefits. Suppose you found the article below about another volcano near Naples. Follow these directions to practice being an effective notetaker.

1. *Skim the article.* Which paragraphs relate to the topic?

2. *Read the related paragraphs carefully and take notes.* On a separate sheet of paper, write notes about the information you find. You don't need to copy entire sentences from the article. Focus on the most important words and phrases. Remember to label your notes to identify the volcano.
3. *Read the entire article.* Identify three other topics for which this article would be a good source of information.

Solfatara Volcano

Solfatara volcano is located near Naples, Italy. The ancient Romans believed that Solfatara was an entrance to the underworld. The volcano was also thought to be one of Vulcan's workshops. Vulcan was the Roman god of fire, for whom volcanoes are named.

Like many other active volcanoes, Solfatara has vents that release steam and other gases between eruptions. The temperature at some vents can reach 140°C. These vents may be good sources of geothermal energy.

Besides steam, Solfatara's vents also release sulfur gas, which smells like rotten eggs. As the sulfur gas moves away from the vents, it cools and condenses to form solid crystals. Sulfur is mined for many uses, particularly in manufacturing. For example, sul-

fur is added to rubber to strengthen it—a process called vulcanization.

The steam and gases from Solfatara's vents are believed to have special healing powers. Since early Roman times, visitors have taken steam baths at Solfatara to treat arthritis and breathing problems and to get the supposed health benefits of "sweat baths."

At some of Solfatara's vents, sulfur gas bubbles up through mud that the gas itself has created. Sulfur is acidic. As the gas rises through cracks underground, it corrodes the rock around it, creating a large pool of hot mud at the surface. The mud in some pools is scorching hot. In other pools, the mud is cool enough for people to soak in it. Mud baths are a popular treatment for softening the skin.